

THE  
**Library Journal**

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS OF AMERICA AND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY AND PUBLIC SCHOOL.

BY MELLE CHAMBERLAIN.

THE opinions expressed in this article having been formed chiefly with reference to the Boston Public Library, the character of its *clientèle*, and its large means and facilities for meeting their reasonable wishes, I cannot say how far the suggestions I am about to make can be turned to profitable account by other libraries.

Before coming to the specific purpose of this paper, I wish to make a few general observations. I recognize three functions, at least, as belonging to public libraries everywhere. First, in due proportion of funds, to answer the requisitions of scholars. Second, to supply suitable reading for all, and without inquiring too nicely whether that reading is merely for amusement, or with some vague notion of acquiring useful knowledge; and lastly, that of instruction for the class who are generally pupils in the public schools.

And I would like to insist that this last-named function is the chief legitimate function of public libraries. For while I have some doubt as to the right to lay taxes for amusements, however useful, I have none whatever either of the legality or equity of the use of public funds for the education of children in the public schools through the instrumentality of the public library. Nor do I question the right and duty of the trustees of the public library, more than that of the trustees of the public schools in their province, to subject those pupils who resort to it to reasonable regulations in regard to what they read.

And in determining what regulations should be made for pupils in the use of the public library, I would be governed by considerations derived from theory and experience found useful in the schools. And in respect to both, there is one principle which I regard as fundamental. It is this: that in any plan adopted for making the library efficiently auxiliary to the schools, I would leave as little as possible depending upon special qualifications—still less, exceptional qualifications—of the librarian or teacher. That any system may be of lasting value, it must be easily workable by the average librarian. Great librarians and extraordinary librarians are, *ex vi termini*, rare; and if they were as common as they are rare, it would still remain true that one extraordinary librarian never can, or at least never will, carry out the system of his extraordinary predecessor. So let the system be of more account than the man who is to work it.

Moreover, while I should have little hope of any plan which depends for its successful working upon the individuality of its inventor, or which demands abilities above the average of those who find their life work in the library, I should equally distrust any scheme which is essentially a spurt, or a succession of novelties, which, each more novel than its predecessor, soon tire out the inventor, and satiate those for whom they were designed.

The experience of the schools for the

last thirty years should be of some value to the librarian. All these years are strewn with the wrecks of plausible inventions, short methods, and new-fangled notions, which, having come to grief, leave the schools doing their work less efficiently, and producing, as seems to be generally feared, if not conceded, less valuable results than before. Not that all these notions were poor in themselves,—for some were well enough,—but because, in the main, they required such a smashing pace that the strain broke down both teacher and pupil; and then followed a period of reaction, and a return to old methods, or, what is more likely, the adoption of some other novelty.

While objecting to what is spasmodic or temporary, I am led to inquire whether there is any plan theoretically and practically as good years hence as to-day, which can be adopted by the average librarian and the average teacher, and by the operation of which the public schools and the public library can be brought into a closer union than exists to-day, and from which union shall proceed an educating power useful to the pupils while they remain such, and an influence over them not to be lost when they become citizens.

When I came to the Public Library I gave the subject some thought, and stated the result in my first annual report. I adopted the conclusions therein stated all the more readily, perhaps, as they rested upon the observations and experience of twenty years' application of them in a private field of labor. I lost no opportunity of calling the attention of others to them, and with some degree of success; for the plan was adopted, though not officially, and tried on a small scale with results entirely satisfactory.

Of the twelve hundred thousand volumes circulated yearly by the Boston Public Library, there were reasons for supposing that three-fourths were read by

young people, the greater part of whom were pupils in the public schools. This fact gave rise to a natural reflection, that if these pupils and their successors could in any just sense be made students in the Public Library, in a generation or two the whole community would become such, and then the library, without derogating from the just claims of scholars, or of those who resorted thither for amusement, would take its proper place among the educational institutions of the city.

The problem was, how to bring about this desired relation between the pupils of the schools and the library. It was assumed that no such relation then existed. And the plan adopted further assumed that the pupils in the public schools must first be taught how to read books before the library could perform its highest function to them; and lastly, that the public schools could best impart this needed instruction. Hence the aid of the public schools was invoked; and thence the subject of this letter: a practical way in which the Public Library and the public schools may assist each other in the performance of a function common to both as parts of a system of public education.

At this state of the case one of the teachers in the public schools was called into council; the plan was considered and immediate action taken. It was arranged that a requisition should be made on the librarian for twenty-five copies of an interesting story, well suited for the experiment, to be retained for an indefinite time. This request was laid before the authorities, from whom, however favorable their private judgment of the plan might be, only one answer could be expected—for a compliance with the request would contravene library rules; and, besides, there was no such number of the desired books in the library, and no fund from which they could be properly purchased. All this, as well as what follows, was antici-



pated. They readily accepted a donation of the volumes in question, given on condition that they should be loaned on the terms proposed. This cleared the way for the experiment. The books were received from the publisher, properly entered, labeled, and marked, and in twenty-four hours were in the Wells school. There they were covered and charged to individual girls. There they remained for one year, having been read by three classes comprising one hundred and fifty pupils, and then were returned to the Public Library substantially in as good condition as when they left it. This year these same books have been asked for and loaned to another school, where they will do a similarly useful work, and so continue their round in the schools until they are no longer serviceable.

But their history while in the Wells school is to be narrated more particularly. When placed in the hands of these girls, they were requested to read them—not in school hours, but at home, as they would read any other book drawn from the Public Library. And at the same time they were informed that for one hour every week, in the place of an ordinary reading lesson, they would be asked to give their opinions of the book; and particularly on three points: the construction of the story, including the naturalness and sequence of incidents as leading to a result; the characterization of the personages and the congruity of their sayings and doings; and finally the sentiments and style. These girls were grammar-school pupils not over sixteen years of age, and in circumstances of life below the average.

By processes of criticism, instruction, and free interchange of opinions, as above indicated, and without interfering with their regular school work, they came to learn what comparatively few persons in any station ever learn—how to read a book; and at the same time acquired habits of

just criticism which they can never wholly forget nor lay aside, and which will enable them to detect and cause them to cast aside whatever of the poor or meretricious may fall into their hands. They are now in a condition to use with profit what they find in the Public Library; and the library, as to them, has just begun to perform its highest function.

There is little danger of overestimating the value of what these girls gained by reading one book in the way thus imperfectly described. Nor can one fail to see that the habit thus acquired would follow them, as I am informed that it did, into all their school work.

But this was not the whole work of the year. At the end of six months, having finished the story, they asked for a book of history, which was supplied from the same source, studied under the same happy circumstances, and with similar results in that department of literature.

Several things in respect to this experiment are worthy of note. It began in the library, and in some important particulars depended upon the library for its success. It neither quarrels nor interferes with any other plan. It is interesting, but not sensational, and leaves the pupils in good heart for any more solid work. It is not temporary in its operations. The teacher can carry it on from year to year, with new and increasing interest, as long as he remains a teacher, and his successors may apply it to each class that enters the public school as long as public schools endure. It neither interferes with the ordinary duties of the librarian, nor does it require abilities above the average on the part of teachers who will give attention to the subject. And finally, if made general and continuous, the public schools would send forth thousands of trained readers of books, who in time would come to constitute the great body of the citizens, not only well qualified to enjoy and be benefited by the

Public Library, but also, and for obvious reasons, its most intelligent friends and supporters.

I will only add, in this connection, that probably no fifty books ever issued from the Public Library have produced so profound and permanent results in so many ways on so many minds, and that in no way can the public money be more economically expended.

The experiment still continues. This year, instead of one, three schools are trying it, and similar results are promised. Of the success or value of the experiment I hear no question. But there is difference of opinion as to the party which should furnish and control the books—the Public Library or the School Board. It is said, and with some force, that the process described is the function of the school and not of the library; that the books used are essentially text-books and in no just sense library books in circulation. But there are reasons which seem to me to countervail these objections, which are largely theoretical.

The successful working of the plan depends very much, if not entirely, upon the unfettered choice of the teacher in the selection of his books—his tools. He can use his own well, another's indifferently well. Educated gentlemen on the School Board may say, and very well say, that there are scores of stories of more artistic construction, of finer style, and higher general merit than that selected by the master. One would recommend "The Sketch-Book," another "The Antiquary," and a third some tale of Miss Edgeworth's, as each happened to recollect the volume which exercised the most formative influence upon his own mind. The Boston school libraries are full of just such books, selected with exquisite taste and judgment by the School Board, and yet of little practical utility, because they are not what the teachers want. We ask them to do a

certain work, and hold them responsible for certain results. Let them have their own tools.

But if all this is granted, it is still asked, why not let the teacher make his requisition, for the books of his own choice, on the School Board instead of the Public Library? For divers good and sufficient reasons, to my mind: The Public Library is always in session; the School Board, once a month. The one is always buying books; the other seldom. One has all the facilities of the trade; the other few, or none. And, in fine, the Library has what the School Board has not—all the force and appliances for the speedy ordering, receiving, and preparing books for use, and for keeping account of them when on loan, as well as for housing them when not.

And if it is said that, whatever in these respects the School Board lacks, it may have, that is admitted, but with this rejoinder; that in that case, and to that extent, there would be two public libraries, where one would not only serve as well, but save expense.

But a reason more decisive to my mind is this: If the Public Library does this work for the pupil, it forms a bond of connection by a sense of benefits received, leading to a desire for a closer intimacy, and resulting in great personal advantage to the pupil, and in great public advantage to the library, in ways which need not be expressed.

After all that may be said, it is a practical question in what way—in what best way—can true education and the proper use of books be most widely diffused through the community.

The experiment, of which I have given an imperfect account, will be thoroughly tried under some auspices or other; and if it succeeds, as it now abundantly promises, I have no doubt that it will eventually be adopted by those libraries to which it may be usefully applied.

## THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL will be continued for another year. This decision is the result of a special circular, which has been addressed to the American subscribers, for the purpose of testing their disposition in relation to the suggestion that it might prove a safer and more satisfactory plan to determine at once on a regular issue at \$3.00 per annum, than to make the issues dependent on the eventual returns from a \$2.00 subscription. Although on going to press all subscribers addressed have not yet been heard from, the majority having answered with a readiness to support the JOURNAL at either subscription price, and some with a guarantee of additional subscriptions, the publisher has determined to give the new plan a trial. In undertaking again what still remains a venture, he is inclined to believe that the JOURNAL, necessarily confined to the essentially useful, will not only retain its former friends, but enlarge its circle of actual readers. He has realized that the first library economy is time, a fact confirmed by quite a recent experience, which has taught him in the most convincing manner that the bulky numbers are not those which receive the most careful reading. (He is satisfied that this remark is thoroughly appreciated by a certain number of subscribers!) He is, therefore, convinced that a regular instalment of some sixteen pages will do more practical good than the accumulations of four times that amount received in a bulk, at irregular intervals. The former may be read at one sitting, the other is liable to be laid aside for that moment of leisure which so rarely enters into the practice of librarians. The programme for the trial year, including some novel features, will be given in the initial number of the new series. Contributions of articles, notes, queries, news items, strictly confined to library interests, are respectfully solicited, and should be all addressed to the LIBRARY JOURNAL, 13 and 15 Park Row. It is to be hoped that the friends of the LIBRARY JOURNAL abroad, particularly in England, will also kindly aid the publisher in his determined efforts to place the publication on a permanent basis.

MR. MELVIL DUI withdraws from the LIBRARY JOURNAL January 1st. In making this announcement, the publisher desires to express his appreciation of the genuine enthusiasm and indefatigable labors which Mr. Dui has displayed from the foundation of the journal to this very number.

## AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

## DECEMBER MEETING.

At a meeting of the executive board, held at the Boston Public Library Dec. 3,—present Messrs. Winsor, Whitney, Cutter, Green, Jackson, Scudder, and Dui,—letters were read from the absent members, with suggestions as to the coming conference at Washington, after which, on full discussion, the date was fixed for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Feb. 9th, 10th, and 11th, 1881.

The preparations and arrangements were divided between the local and program committees. The program committee secures and selects papers to be read, fixes subjects to be discussed, and takes entire charge of the purely Association business. The local committee arranges the place and hours of meeting, railroad and hotel accommodations, visits to libraries, and all social or local features of the meeting. President Winsor was elected chairman of the program committee and vice-president Spofford of the local committee, each with power to name the remaining members.

The question having been submitted whether a society or library could pay \$25.00 and constitute its librarian a life member, the membership rights passing from one incumbent to another and thus becoming perpetual, it was voted that associations could join as life members only by making some individual a life member, the membership being not transferable.

Mr. Dui tendered his resignation as treasurer,\* which was accepted, but it was thought best not to fill the vacancy till the Washington meeting. In the meantime the chairman of the finance committee, Mr. S. S. Green of Worcester, will receive and receipt for any payments to the A. L. A.

After discussion of the future of the LIBRARY JOURNAL and Mr. Leypoldt's connection with it, it was unanimously voted that the Secretary transmit to Mr. Leypoldt the hearty and appreciative thanks of the Board for the marked liberality with which he has carried forward the LIBRARY JOURNAL in the face of heavy loss, and the promise of its earnest coöperation in any plans he may adopt for continuing the official organ of the Association.

## WASHINGTON CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

Pres. Winsor has appointed on the program committee Mr. W. F. Poole of Chicago, and Mr. W. E. Foster of Providence, the latter as secretary.

The local committee having charge of arrangements is composed of Messrs. A. R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress; J. S. Billings, Librarian

\* At the last meeting of the Board in the summer, no business requiring record in the JOURNAL was transacted, except the resignation of Mr. Jackson as treasurer, and the election of the Secretary to the vacant office. The announcement of this change was by accident omitted.

of the Surgeon-General's office library; Theo. F. Dwight, Librarian of the State Department; Weston Flint, Librarian of the Patent-Office; William MacLeod, Curator of the Corcoran Art Gallery; Prof. E. S. Holden, Naval Observatory Library; and Lester F. Ward, Librarian of Bureau of Statistics.

As a basis of application for a reduction of fares to those attending the convention, the names of those in the western part of the country wishing to be present should be sent to the chairman of the local committee, as soon as may be. No reduction of railroad fare can be effected between Washington and New York and Boston, but it is expected that excursion tickets from all points west of Pittsburgh can be arranged for at reduced rates for librarians coming to Washington.

#### UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION.

##### NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING.

THE first monthly meeting of the fourth year of the Association was held at the London Institution on Friday, November 5, 1880; Mr. R. Harrison, Treasurer, in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Chairman called on Mr. E. B. Nicholson to read his paper, entitled, "The Use of Buckram, Linoleum, and Cretonne for Binding."

Mr. Nicholson said:

"The result of my advocacy of buckram as a binding material, at the conference of librarians in 1877, has been to bring it into great use, both in this country and America. Since then I have been driven almost to abandon its use, and I wish to make known the reasons which have led me to do so—adding to those reasons a few remarks on one or two other new materials.

"The virtues which, in 1877, I claimed for buckram were durability, good looks, and cheapness. As regards its durability, I am still convinced that if any one were to bind Chrysoloras's Greek Grammar in buckram, and were able to see it again in five hundred years' time, he would find the material unworn; because, being a linen, it is not disintegrated by any amount of heated air, and because Chrysoloras's Greek Grammar is not a book which is likely to suffer from excessive use. But, if the same person were to bind "Roland Yorke" in buckram, were to place it in a popular lending-library, and were to see it again, not in five hundred years, but in five hundred days, he would very probably find that the corners and the joints of the back were wearing to rags—a fact of which I was unaware in 1877, simply because I

had bound no popular books in that material. As regards the good looks of buckram, I am sorry to say that the caution which I then gave against red and green, on account of their tendency to fade, should have been extended to black, blue, purple, and yellow; and that not only all of these, but also brown and slate, lose their glaze altogether, and take stains and spots as badly as the least fast of book-binders' muslins. Lastly, as regards cheapness, I now find that it is possible to get any book, up to demy quarto, bound as cheap in half-morocco as in buckram, while the difference for demy folios is no more than threepence.

"I do not wish for a moment to deny that an atlas folio would cost much less to bind in buckram than in half-morocco, that if it were bound in slate or brown, it would not perceptibly fade, and that, if it were hardly ever used, it would keep its glaze, and be a permanently respectable-looking volume. Nor do I see why buckram should not be better glazed, better dyed, and made stouter and cheaper. All I say is that, until these things come about, it is very far from an ideal material for binding moderate-sized books in common use.

"It was suggested to me a few months ago, by one of our binders, that linoleum might be made of a thickness suitable for binding; and in September last, one of the members of the London Institution called my attention to a prospectus of the linoleum called "lincrusta-Walton," or "muralis," in which it was suggested as a binding material. I found, on inquiry at a London agent's, that muralis was asserted to be damp-proof, heat-proof, acid-proof, and so little liable to fade or rub that it might be cleaned with a scrubbing-brush. Here, I thought, is the promise of an absolutely perfect material, and, on finding that it was made thin enough, I at once had twenty volumes bound in it, some in plain, some in figured muralis, some full-bound, some half-bound. Specimens of these I now show; and I must ask you, in criticising their appearance, to bear in mind the fact that the material has never been manufactured with a view to binding. The plain muralis has only been made in its self-color, instead of being dyed to such a color as is usual in book-covers. The figured is made in patterns suitable for wall-decoration, and the particular pattern which I have chosen, because it was the cheapest, is also only made at present in the self-color of the material. Moreover, had it been intended for binding, the pattern should have been in low instead of high relief, to avoid rubbing the binding of the books next to it. Again, in consequence of the pattern being in high relief, the binders have sometimes had to put the lettering-piece much lower down than is at all usual. And,



lastly, these books were bound in a great hurry, so as to enable me to take them, if I thought fit, to the meeting at Edinburgh. If you imagine them carefully bound in brown or chocolate muralis, with sunk patterns, and the lettering-piece consequently in its right place, you will, I think, admit that their appearance would be decidedly good.

"But muralis will not do as a binding-material. It is so soft that you can pick it to pieces with the greatest ease; and this copy of Liddell and Scott, which has not been in use for three weeks, is, you will see, already cracked down the joints between back and sides. A second fault is that the unevenness of the material prevents gilding on it, and makes lettering-pieces necessary.

"Nevertheless these experiments make it likely that a linoleum can be made which will be in every way suitable for binding—for the main defect of muralis, its extreme softness, is one in which ordinary linoleum does not share. Whether such a linoleum will be as cheap as durable remains to be seen. The price of full-binding an ordinary octavo in plain muralis is 2s. 8d.; the price of full-binding Liddell and Scott in figured muralis is 3s. 9d.

"One other new material may be mentioned. Mr. Bentley has taken to binding his three-volume novels in cretonnes, exactly the same material as is used for covering drawing-room chairs. Some of the patterns are very pretty, but of course they soil and fade, while the material clearly would not stand much rubbing. At first Mr. Bentley lettered the cretonne itself, but as it did not take gilt well, or show it well, he now sews a letter-piece on the back.

"In a paper of mine which will be printed in the Transactions of the Edinburgh meeting, are some remarks on the durability of the different kinds of leather in common use for binding purposes. I will not duplicate those remarks in the present paper, further than to say that for the combination of durability, good looks, and reasonable cheapness, no material that I know equals half-morocco, unless (as I think possible) time shows equal durability in half-persian. As for russias, calfs, and common roan, as they are at present prepared, it were much to be desired, in the interests of libraries, that their use for binding purposes were made a penal offense. No librarian with any knowledge of these leathers, and any regard for the future of his library, will ever think of using them on books which are expected to descend to a new generation."

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Walford said that he had tried several experiments, and had come to the conclusion that manilla paper sides with basil leather backs was about the best kind of binding for ordinary purposes, and much cheaper than ordinary bindings. As to calf, he thought

that the acids used in bleaching were a principal cause of its decay. He thought highly of chintz, but feared that the tendency to cheapness would induce the employment of a bad material. Mr. Frost had found some old calf bindings much improved by a coating of paste, which they absorbed very freely. Mr. Welch regretted that publishers did not sew their books more strongly; many new books with handsome covers soon came to pieces, and had to be rebound long before the cover had suffered any damage.

#### THE COMMITTEE ON INDICATORS,

consisting of Messrs. Elliot, Mullins, Timmins, Tonks, and Wright, issued a series of inquiries to the Free Public Libraries using indicators, and having received replies to the same, presented its report, which was adopted at the last annual meeting.

#### CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES.

At the last annual meeting, a resolution was passed calling the attention of the Council to rule 22 of the constitution of this Association, and requesting them to employ means for carrying it into effect.

Rule 22.—In any district containing six members of the Association, a local committee may be formed, with a corresponding secretary. Resolutions and recommendations forwarded by local committees to the secretaries of the Association shall be laid before its next monthly meeting.

The Council having considered the subject have requested the under-named members to act as corresponding secretaries, and have assigned the following districts to them, subject to their consent to undertake the office:

Brighton—B. Lomax, Librarian, Free Library and Museum (Brighton); Birmingham—C. E. Scarse, Librarian, Birmingham Library, Union street (Birmingham); Cambridge—Rev. Robert Sinker, Librarian, Trinity College (Cambridge); Dundee—J. MacLachlan, Librarian, Free Library and Museum (Dundee); Durham—Rev. J. T. Fowler, Librarian, University Library (Durham); Edinburgh—T. G. Law, Librarian, Signet Library (Edinburgh); Exeter—Rev. H. E. Reynolds, Librarian, Cathedral Library (Exeter); Glasgow—F. T. Barrett, Librarian, Mitchell Library (Glasgow); Leeds—T. J. W. MacAlister, Librarian (Leeds); Lincolnshire—Rev. J. C. Hudson, Thornton Vicarage (Horncastle); Liverpool—P. Cowell, Librarian, Free Public Library (Liverpool); Manchester—J. Plant, Librarian, Royal Museum and Libraries, Peel Park (Salford); Newcastle—W. J. Haggerston, Librarian, Public Libraries (Newcastle-upon-Tyne); Nottingham—J. P. Briscoe, Librarian, Free Public Libraries (Nottingham); Oxford—F. Madan, Librarian, Brasenose College (Oxford); Plymouth—W. H. K. Wright, Librarian, Free Library (Plymouth); Southampton—T. W. Shore, Hartley Institution (Southampton); Stafford—T. J. De'Mazirgh, Librarian, William Salt Library (Stafford); Wigan—H. T. Folkard, Librarian, Free Public Library (Wigan); York—W. M. Morrell, City and County Bank (York).



## WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

THE date is fixed, the committees appointed, and all the indications are that there is to be a large, profitable and thoroughly enjoyable meeting at Washington on the 9th, 10th, and 11th of February, 1881. The date comes at the very height of the Washington season, just before Lent and long enough before the inauguration to avoid the bustle of the last days of the old administration. The names of the local committee appointed give full assurance in advance that railroad and hotel rates will be as favorable as possible; that a "jollie companie" will go on from New England Monday night, February 7th, reaching Washington Tuesday noon; that other parties from the West will join us there; that there will be a hotel head-quarters, where those who have not friends in the city who claim them will learn to know and prize each other better.

Little need be said of the attractions of the national capital, specially in midwinter. There is no other place on the continent that will so well repay a visit. But no argument is needed for the pleasure, good-fellowship, and enjoyment in every way. I wish to speak only of the practical, working side of the meeting. Our three meetings, Philadelphia, Oct., 1876, New York, Sept., 1877 (for twenty-two of us, London, Oct., 1877), and Boston, June, 1879, were each and all a success. We enjoyed and profited by all, but there were mistakes made, and most of us saw where still more good might have been gained. Let us profit by these experiences, and make the Washington Conference more of a success than any of its predecessors.

It has happened over and over, heretofore, that at the close of the meeting inquiries have shown that some one has been present and gone home, to his own and others' disappointment. *E. g.*, two librarians had corresponded for years, and depended on becoming personally acquainted at the Boston meeting. One neglected to register, and neither knowing the other's face, they contrived to get through the sessions without meeting, and the fact that both had been present was learned only after one had gone home. I propose at the Washington meeting, beside the register heretofore kept for the signatures of those in attendance, to require every person passing into the room to register, and at once to transfer the name and city address, with date of proposed leaving, to an alphabetical index. It will then be the work of an instant to learn with certainty about any person in attendance. Of course, if for special reasons any one wishes to remain incognito, his wishes will be carried out. The exceptions only

prove the rule, and the index will save a vast deal of running about, and questioning about persons and personal goings and comings.

The complaint was made at Boston that we had too many papers and too little face-to-face discussion. The best of papers can be printed in the JOURNAL and reach us all, but even our symposiums are very feeble and unsatisfactory substitutes for discussion. There is a chemistry of ideas, and a man often says, under the influence of discussion, what he would never think or write out by himself at home. This is at once the most valuable and enjoyable feature of our meetings, as experiences at Philadelphia and New York prove. By common consent our meetings are called *conferences*; we come together to talk and discuss library interests—not to hear essays, but for conference.

The committee on program can safely be trusted to give us the necessary time; the only other serious matter remains with ourselves in *proper preparation for the Conference*.

It is asking too much of the audience, for men to raise questions for discussion which have been fully considered and settled at previous meetings or by committee reports in the JOURNAL. I do not mean that members should not call up anything for reconsideration if there is any new light or good reason for so doing; but I mean that members have no right to take the time discussing these things without knowing what has been said or done before about them. People who are coming to the meeting ought to read up, in the five volumes of the JOURNAL, the topics that are to be discussed there: Library Architecture, Public Documents, Duplicates, Museums with Libraries, etc. Remarkably full indexes to these volumes have been made for just such occasions. Even old readers will be surprised, on searching the JOURNAL for any library subject, to find how much has really been printed. Each member should look up carefully, making notes, all the topics he is specially interested in hearing discussed at the meeting. Then he can ask questions or take part in the discussions intelligently, and with profit to himself and the rest. If each reads up and thinks up his topics, and comes with notes of just what he wants light on, and just what he wants to give light on, there will be plenty of interesting work, and no time will be lost. An expeditious plan, that many will prefer rather than to raise the questions personally, is to hand in the doubtful point in writing to the Secretary, to be put before the meeting at the first opportunity. Some one will be likely to have the requested information, and many others may be interested in

the answer. All topics not answered will stand in the report as a list for notes and queries. These queries may be sent the Secretary by mail, before the Conference, by those unable to attend in person.

To sum up. Arrange to go to Washington without fail. Read up and think up the topics you want discussed at the meeting, and bring notes of your points in writing, so that we may make the most of our opportunities at the capital.

MELVIL DUL.

#### INCORPORATION OF THE A. L. A.

PROF. JUSTIN WINSOR, PRES. A. L. A.—*Dear Sir:* I propose to incorporate the A. L. A. under Massachusetts State law, the same as the Bible Society and other educational or missionary associations are incorporated. This involves some trouble and expense, of course; but I have faith enough in the wisdom of my plan to remove this only possible objection by offering to assume all the trouble and expense personally, so that it shall cost neither the A. L. A. nor any of its members a cent. Having done this, there are absolutely no objections to my plan. It imposes no added responsibilities or liabilities, and as an educational corporation we are free by law from taxation. I speak advisedly after careful examination and legal consultation, for which I have already paid all the fees. There are not even annual reports to the State to be made in the form in which we shall incorporate, *i. e.*, without capital stock. It involves no changes in our constitution, by-laws, officers, titles, or duties. In short, we could incorporate and gain the advantages without any of our members discovering the fact from any changes, except the new and valuable privileges which we acquire. We gain the following advantages without losing anything:

It gives us a permanence and dignity not to be secured under our present organization. We have a long and great work before us, and need all the help that comes from official recognition by the State.

We can then hold property legally and without taxation, and I hope we shall secure some large gifts which, as we are now situated, we have no legal authority to receive or own.

The A. L. A. becomes an individual and assumes its own responsibilities. Whatever complications might arise out of the various enterprises with which we are or may become connected, *e. g.*, the A. L. A. catalog, there cannot possibly be any liabilities to members, while, as it is at present, some very cautious people are a little afraid that any mistake *might* impose a liability on our members.

As a corporation, we can do many things which

we cannot now do. In short, we gain much and lose only the trouble and expense for which I provide personally.

I wish to complete this work at once, because of an interest in a wealthy quarter which I am hoping, soon after this incorporation, will give us a handsome sum to help on our work. Till the matter is entirely completed, it will not do to call names, nor is it necessary. If I fail, no harm whatever has been done. We are ready to try somewhere else, and have the authority of the State to receive and hold as large a gift or legacy as we can get.

I know your approval will be prompt and hearty, and with it I shall go through the necessary formalities at once. If it involved new responsibilities or expense of any kind, the matter should be submitted to our next year's meeting, but it is unwise to wait for that, and the most hypercritical member would not object to the incorporation, if I take all the trouble and pay the bills. I should still advise it, even if such a thing as objection were possible, because, under the impossible supposition that the Association did not ratify the action, it would cost nothing to surrender our charter and go back to the old order of things. But of course this is useless talk. The possibility of getting a handsome sum to help our work counterbalances a thousand-fold these imaginary objections.

Any seven members in this vicinity can go through the necessary formalities, and the entire membership will profit by the advantages gained.

I shall look for your early and cordial approval.

Very truly,

MELVIL DUL.

A year ago the above letter was sent by the Secretary to the President of the A. L. A. The plan was of course approved, and after due notice and formalities, the charter was issued by the Secretary of State to the members who signed the necessary papers, their associates and successors. The entire board of officers, committees, and all members of the A. L. A. were elected members of the nominally new organization with due formalities, and thus, as explained in the letter, the new rights and privileges were secured without interfering in the least with the old. The announcement in the January JOURNAL was omitted, hoping that by the delay it could be stated that the first considerable gift under the new right to receive and own property could be announced at the same time. In recording the action at this time, special attention is called to the fact that we have carefully done our part, and that those friends who have large sums to give us now, or to leave to us later, need no longer delay. There is now no legal technicality

to prevent our accepting, and holding in due form, as much as friends of our great work may give us. Certainly, if the members bear this in mind and present our claims properly, we shall not wait long before beginning the roll of considerable benefactors. There are few causes which can do as much good with the same amount of money as can our A. L. A., and we may all appeal to the general public, or to individual friends, with confidence in the merits of our claims.

There were present at the first meeting Justin Winsor, J. L. Whitney, and Fred. B. Perkins, of the Boston Public Library; C. A. Cutter, of the Boston Athenæum; Samuel S. Green, of the Worcester Free Library; T. W. Bicknell, editor *National Journal of Education*; Mrs. Melvil Dui, and Melvil Dui. The incorporation was completed, and the charter bears date of December 10, 1879 (which is therefore our legal birthday, though not a few of us will long remember that earlier birthday in the City of Brotherly Love, October 6, 1876. But then we did not remember that, to do all the good work we had before us, we must be born again.

Below we give a verbatim reprint of the official certificate of incorporation.

NO. 997. COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

BE it known that, whereas Justin Winsor, C. A. Cutter, Samuel S. Green, James L. Whitney, Melvil Dui, Fred. B. Perkins, and Thomas W. Bicknell have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of the "American Library Association," for the purpose of promoting the library interest of the country, by exchanging views, reaching conclusions, and inducing co-operation in all departments of bibliothecal science and economy; by disposing the public mind to the founding and improving of libraries; and by cultivating good-will among its own members; and have complied with the provisions of the statutes of this Commonwealth, in such case made and provided, as appears from the certificate of the president, treasurer, and executive board of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations, and recorded in this office.

Now, therefore, I, Henry B. Peirce, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that said Justin Winsor, C. A. Cutter, Samuel S. Green, James L. Whitney, Melvil Dui, Fred. B. Perkins, and Thomas W. Bicknell, their associates and successors, are legally organized and established, and are hereby made an existing corporation under the name of the "American Library Association," with the powers, rights, and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties, and restrictions which by law appertain thereto. Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed, this tenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine.

HENRY B. PEIRCE,  
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

A FREE LENDING LIBRARY FOR NEW YORK, WITH THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS BRANCHES.

(From *Scribner's Monthly*, October, 1880.)

THERE is at present a general impression in the city of New York, among the class known as "leading citizens," that the time has come to found a great public lending library. This is certainly cause for congratulation—though why the time should be thought only just now to have come might not be easy to explain, in view of the well-known experience, not only of many English towns, but also of several of our own sister cities.

Boston, twenty years ago, thought the time had come, and acted accordingly. She spent, and spent well, in founding her great free library, more than two dollars for each man, woman, and child within her limits, and she has sustained it to this day with equal spirit and liberality. That library has now more than three hundred and sixty thousand volumes, and her citizens last year took from it *to their homes more than one million one hundred and sixty thousand books*. Many smaller places in New England and elsewhere, not without careful investigation, have followed her example, finding in the practical results of her twenty years' work proof satisfactory to their tax-payers that a free library is a profitable investment of public money; while in the West, the great cities of Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis, with the western free-handed energy, have established free libraries on such a scale that one, at least, of them bids fair to rank among the greatest in the world.

Our first excuse for our delay in the matter, as for all other civic delinquencies, is the mixed composition of our population,\* but in that respect both Boston and Cincinnati are, in fact, almost as heavily handicapped as New York, while Chicago is even worse off. The shape of our city, also, its insular site, its intense commercial activity, and the nightly exodus of such hosts of its busy workers, all tend, by offering unusual conditions, to embarrass the consideration of the question.

It is a discouraging and humiliating reflection that we, the citizens of this, the metropolis of the western hemisphere, have to-day, as a body, relatively fewer literary privileges than were enjoyed by our predecessors at the beginning of the cen-

\* A reference to the census for 1870 shows the foreign-born population of Boston to be 35 per cent. of the whole; of Cincinnati, 37 per cent.; of Chicago, 48 per cent., and of New York 45 per cent. One-third, however, of this 45 per cent. are Germans, who may for the most part, for the purposes of this calculation, be considered the same as ourselves. The Irish element is even larger in Boston than here, being 23 per cent. to our 22 per cent.

tury. Our libraries then were small, but they were within the reach of all. The Society Library, for instance, in the year 1795 had five or six thousand volumes and some nine hundred subscribers; it has now some sixty-five thousand volumes, but its subscribers are somewhere about twelve hundred. The Apprentices' Library, at its foundation in 1820, was probably within fifteen minutes' walk of three-quarters of the apprentices in the city; to-day its collection of over fifty thousand volumes is positively inaccessible to probably at least the same proportion. The cause is everywhere the same—that the means have gradually come to be regarded as the end,—the true end and aim of a public library being evidently not the mere collecting of books, however valuable, but the getting of them read by those who need them.

It must be admitted that the great city of New York has just cause for shame, being in this state of things not only behind the age, but behind many small and unimportant towns of past ages.

Our largest libraries, the Astor and the Lenox, are, even to well-to-do business men, practically as inaccessible as if they were in another city. The Society and the Mercantile, though not free, are, it is true, pecuniarily within the reach of a large class, and they, as well as the smaller collections of the Young Men's Christian Association and the Cooper Union, may be consulted in the evening; but this involves a sacrifice costly indeed to most—that of their few hours of home life and home influence. To the vast majority of mechanics and working-men, these also are entirely out of reach. What wonder, then, that the dime novel and the sensation story-paper pass from hand to hand, and gradually become almost the exclusive reading in thousands of humble homes! Yet there are few lads who would not rather read a natural history adapted to their years, with anecdotes of wild and tame animals, or really good books of travel and adventure, provided that all these are so illustrated as to bring them within the grasp of an unpracticed imagination.

When the oldest of our city libraries were established, New York was a little town of easy and simple habits. Since those days she has increased, and all the inventions of the modern world have come in a hundred-fold, but the methods of her libraries remain unchanged. If one of her citizens has to-day occasion to inform himself in any but the most elementary manner on some subject, say of scientific or historical interest, he must send to London and buy the necessary publications, or go in person to one, probably successively to several, of our bonded book warehouses, facetiously termed free libraries, get the

books out, if happily they are there to be got out, one by one on his written recognizance, and read them with what heart he may in some elbow-touching rank of fellow unfortunates,—and all before four o'clock in the afternoon. The result should have been foreseen by any one with the least knowledge of human nature, or the slightest experience of human action. Although our half-dozen principal libraries aggregate some half-million of volumes, the majority even of our cultivated classes make no use whatever of them, and naturally regard them with indifference, while the great mass of the population are doubtless ignorant of their very existence.

Our public may be divided roughly into three classes of readers,—that is, of those who would become readers under more favorable circumstances. The first comprises people of wealth and leisure, together with those who make literature a profession; the second, business men of all kinds, who generally can better afford money than time; the third, working men and women, of whom it is no stretch of truth to say that they have neither time nor money at their disposal. The first class can make shift to get on as at present; the second, on the contrary, does not and will not make use, to any extent, of facilities such as we now have; the third cannot if it would.

A great library is no longer an experiment, nor are its manifold benefits now for the first time to be demonstrated. As we turn the pages of history, scarce a monarch truly great but founds or revives one; scarce a free people of any political sagacity but early manifests solicitude on the subject. If the great sea-port of the ancient world, though heiress of the stupendous monumental records of primeval civilization, yet counted her collection of parchment and papyrus scrolls among her chief glories, housing it splendidly among the palaces and temples of her principal street; if the chief mart of modern Christendom has provided for her library (it now numbers over a million volumes) even more munificently, expending one hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling on its reading-room alone; surely the metropolis of the New World, of destinies possibly greater than either, need not fear to lay foundations broad and deep for a structure grander than human eyes have thus far seen.

But who, in this city of shifting population, of feverish commercial activity, of popular and not too pure administration, can be found, of strength and skill to wield the ponderous instrument, to hold it back from unworthy uses, and to guard it from falling into ignorant or corrupt hands?

The money question will be the first to strike



our New Yorker. Can the large sum necessary be raised by private subscription? On the other hand, if voted by the city, can the professional politician be kept at bay? It would seem in principle that an institution so entirely for the people, and for the whole people, should not be left to the uncertainties of private benevolence. It ought to be founded and maintained by the city, the necessary appropriation being voted and the money raised in the same way as that for the Board of Education. Practically, however, it would evidently be exceedingly desirable that, to begin with, a fund should be subscribed large enough to defray, at least, the expense of getting the enterprise fairly under way, with a permanent board of management organized and in the field. As we proceed, a plan may develop itself by which these expenses may be reduced much below what has hitherto been thought possible.\*

The free library must be considered as, in its simplest and justest conception, the adjunct and concomitant of the public school, joining in the task of popular instruction even before the latter lays it down, seeking to make permanent results already attained, and to carry on the work of educating the people even through their years of maturity. The best thought of the present day on this subject all seems to tend in this direction, and, as might have been expected, not a few able and philanthropic men have already thrown themselves heart and soul into so fascinating a field of work. In Providence, for instance, the public librarian daily posts upon his bulletin lists of books suitable for consultation on the topics of the day, as mentioned in the daily papers, and he also publishes, from time to time, "attractive articles tempting the reader further." At Harvard College, by co-operation of the professors and the veteran pioneer in library work, Mr. Justin Winsor, the resources of the library are utilized in a systematic way which is probably without example in such an institution.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the influence that could be exerted by an earnest teacher, having at his disposal the varied treasures of a great library for reward of the diligent and encouragement of the flagging.

Not of the public school alone, however, but of every school and institution of learning, should

the public library be the adjunct and the successor, —of every striving, struggling man and woman should it be the confidant and guide, ready to lend counsel in every trade and profession, to every artisan, every artist, to every merchant, to every scholar.

Let those who pride themselves upon their devotion to the so-called practical reflect that the advantages of a library are no longer of a purely literary character, and are becoming less and less so; that the "arts and mysteries" of manufacture are no longer taught by word of mouth alone to indentured apprentices, but that the "master workmen" of the nineteenth century speak through books to all; and that in proportion as our workmen become intelligent and skillful does their labor increase in value to themselves and to the state.

It is probably not too much to say that the benefits already suggested to our working classes, and through them to our city, will alone be of a magnitude to warrant the expense of the undertaking; but it is to the great middle class, engaged generally in business pursuits, that our library will really be the greatest boon, and in the midst of which its beneficent influences will be most promptly and most widely manifested; it is probable that men of action in this same middle class, comprising so many of broadest view and clearest insight, will more often than now give us the results of their experience and observation, when they are able to assure themselves, as they cannot now do, that some one else may not already have been over the very same ground.

Fortunately for the successful working of our future library, there are already in existence excellent models for many details, both of construction and operation. The great reading-room, for instance, of the British Museum Library, in London, is not likely to be forgotten by those Americans who have been admitted to its privileges, and it might with advantage be reproduced here, unchanged except in size. It is a circular building, floored with heavy India rubber, lighted in the daytime by windows in its immense iron dome, and in the evening by the electric light; and it has arranged upon its walls a reference library of thirty thousand volumes, to be taken down at will by any reader. In the center of the room sits the librarian with his assistants; surrounding them is a circular catalogue-counter, and radiating from this are desks for three hundred readers, to each allotted pens, ink, blotting-pad, an arm-chair on casters, and last, not least, four feet of elbow room. Any reader wishing a book not upon the walls of the room, has but to ask for it at the central counter, and it is presently brought to his desk by an

\* We may advert here to one source of growth of a really popular library, which is in the large number of valuable books now annually scattered or sold for trifling sums, but which would speedily begin to find their way into it, were they only made welcome, and were there suitable public recognition of such gifts by notices posted in the porch and inserted in daily papers—perhaps, also, by proper stamps and labels in the books themselves.



assistant. This arrangement it would be hard to improve upon, but we should have also a second large room, as in Boston, for newspapers and periodicals, while a third, of less size, should be devoted to the preservation and the study of prints and drawings. Many less striking but equally important problems—as, for example, to obtain ventilation without dust, warmth without injury to bindings, light with economy of space and convenient classification, seclusion for special studies with thorough supervision, and many others—have all been solved more or less satisfactorily, and there is no reason why, in all such particulars, we should not begin where others leave off. Probably the key to some of the greatest moment will be found in the abandonment of the shelving on the external walls, and the making of the windows as numerous and as large as possible, so as to light up brightly the alcoves in the stacks of shelves which should fill the center of the building. These stacks, with an iron frame-work and shelves of japanned iron, or, perhaps, of heavy glass, would defy all the destructive agencies from which library buildings have heretofore suffered, except the sledge-hammers of barbarism and fanaticism.

In organizing the lending, or "circulating," work of the library, the Boston plan may probably be followed to advantage. This divides it into two departments, requiring of all borrowers separate application and registration; the Boston "Lower Hall" containing the more popular books, with all "juveniles," while the "Bates Hall," named from a generous donor, contains the main library; of which many valuable works, of course, never go out at all, and others only by order of the librarian himself.

There has been some talk lately of the possibility of library consolidation in New York, and the suggestion has been made that the old Mercantile Library should constitute itself such a "lower hall" division of a future great library, and that the Niblo bequest to the Young Men's Christian Association (some \$160,000 cash) be used for the foundation of a "Bates Hall" division. This offers a plan by which the great point is gained of setting our library in operation and bringing its advantages home to the people before calling on them to approve of a heavy outlay of public money; for, by use of the telephone, the two or more libraries thus consolidated can continue in their present quarters, under their present administration, until the building of the future be far enough advanced to give them shelter. Of course, in such a transaction the Young Men's Christian Association, or any other society, should have

assured to it a proportionate representation in the future board of direction, and might thus exert for all time an influence for good possibly far wider than by keeping its books apart and within its own walls.

The library edifice should be at the outset of a size to contain one hundred thousand volumes in the main library, twenty-five thousand in the popular circulating library, and ten thousand in the reference library, and should be susceptible of enlargement, without removal or rebuilding, to accommodate two or three million volumes in the main library, one hundred thousand in the circulating, and in the reference library fifty thousand volumes and a thousand readers. A simple arrangement would be to construct a central dome large enough for the full development of the reference library and reading-room, and to make use temporarily of a part of it for the nucleus of the main library, building afterward, as required, radiating wings, along the middle of which the books should be stacked, leaving room near the windows for the so-called "alcove" studies of specialists. The interiors should be planned with regard to but two main considerations—the accommodation of the public and the preservation of the books; and if our American architects of this nineteenth century have not originality enough to inclose such interiors in walls graceful and agreeable to the eye, yet indestructible by aught but time itself,—why, so much the worse for them and for us. Except the London reading-room already mentioned, there is scarcely a great library building in the world which should serve us for anything but a warning.

It is evident, as already intimated, that, wherever our library may be placed, it will be an impossibility for the great mass of the people who should use it to come to it themselves in person. The books must be got to them by some means, and if our city express posts can take letters and circulars at a profit—as they now do—for one cent each, it is difficult to see why, under proper management, the cost of carrying books, even from house to house, should be much greater. The chief objection to this house delivery is, indeed, less its first cost than the danger of losing the books or of wasting them on improper persons—the difficulty, amounting practically to impossibility, of keeping so vast a system of registration in working order. A philanthropic effort is now making by our "Free Library Association" to bring good reading within reach of the poor by small libraries in various quarters, and the eagerness with which the books are taken at the one now open shows

how great the want has been. This scheme, however, seems scarcely susceptible of more than very limited development, and may, besides, excite among the class for whom it is intended something of the distrust felt for the so-called "missions," left here and there among them by wealthy churches, in departing to more fashionable quarters up-town. In Boston, this case is sought to be met by establishing in the suburbs "branches" of the public library, where duplicates of popular books (which would in any case be required) are kept for local use. Of these subordinate collections, for each of which some local library has served as nucleus, she has now seven, a number equivalent to twenty-five or thirty in New York.

There is, however, a plan which promises to take us a long step in advance of either of these, solving equally well the problem of registration, far cheaper than house delivery, yet giving to every citizen the inestimable benefits of direct access to the entire treasures of the main library, while at the same time bringing about simply and practically a desirable unity in the work of public education. This plan is to make each public school a branch of the public library, in constant, immediate connection with it by telephone, and also by an active wagon service. Counting grammar-school buildings only, omitting for the present the fifty primary-school buildings, will give about seventy stations—a number not too great for the proper working of the plan. Let each be made the center of a "library district." Let the principal or vice-principal of the school, assisted by a teacher always under his supervision, act as librarian, being clothed with full discretionary powers and held responsible for the books not only, but also for a judicious use of them, first of all by the families connected with his school.\*

This will give us at once, without expense and without a chance for "jobbery," seventy stations, not in odd holes and corners, but in handsome buildings, where political trickery but seldom enters and where every influence will be protective and conservative. It will give us the services of seventy scholarly men of undoubted integrity, each already thoroughly acquainted with his district, known and respected by every family in it.

\* A hint for some such plan was given by the Holbrook bequest, under which about thirty thousand dollars was not long since paid to the trustees of the several wards, for the purchase of public-school libraries. Where these have been selected to suit the wants of the scholars, the effect is described as very happy; but in some cases no books, apparently, have yet been bought; in others the collections are for the teachers, not the scholars; and in some, again, they suggest the preponderance of other considerations than the best welfare of either teachers or taught.

It will put the whole management and development of the branches, at least for the present, where it seems naturally to belong—under the control of the Board of Education, and will bring the practical workings of them in each ward under the valuable supervision of the local trustees and inspectors.

The entrance hall of the school building, now used only by the teachers and visitors, will afford space enough for the present, but in time the rooms on the same floor, usually three or four in number, now occupied by janitor and family, may be taken, especially if eventually it is thought best to open reading-rooms at each branch. In this case the janitor can be quartered in the neighborhood, and probably without additional cost to the city, for an inquiry into the wages paid these custodians, and the service—whether watching, cleaning, or keeping in order—rendered for the same, will speedily convince any employer of labor that the places are such as thousands of worthy men in the city would be thankful for. Each branch must, of course, be provided with complete catalogues of the two divisions of the library, and with suitable books for registration of the two classes of borrowers, as already suggested. These and other details of administration may be found ready to hand in the New England public libraries, where they have been worked up with uncommon skill, and applied with equal adroitness and economy. The hours must necessarily be suited not only to business men but to working men, who, however, will be only too content if they can order a book one evening and get it the next. Two hours a day, one in the morning and one in the evening, may be enough to begin with. As to any serious difficulty in the wagon delivery from the library to the branches, it is enough to say that the distance from any point on this island to each of the aforesaid seventy schools, and back again, is considerably less than thirty miles, so that with ten good horses five rounds could be made daily. With such small districts it is possible to know every applicant, and to keep the register in such wholesome condition that books may, as in Boston, be safely delivered upon written order—in which case the school children would immediately begin to play the carriers. In Boston, the preliminary inquiries into the character of would-be borrowers, as well as the recovery of books and collection of fines from delinquents, are intrusted to the police, and with many advantages. It is possibly in part owing to their efficient co-operation that the loss of books is there so astonishingly small, it having been last year only one hundred and one volumes, or less than one lost in every ten

thousand lent. New Yorkers are not accustomed to look for such assistance from the police, but the service is after all a light one, which we cannot help thinking will be cheerfully rendered, while in many quarters their known co-operation would have a most salutary influence.

This new use of the public schools will cause a shock to some men of routine, and will certainly not be adopted without much discussion in the Board of Education and by the ward trustees. It will be surprising, however, if these gentlemen refuse to accept so honorable an extension of their duties and influence, for there is no reason whatever why such a use should in any way interfere with what is, of course, their first duty, the work of direct instruction. Moreover, good ought to ensue from the better acquaintance of the public with the schools.

To the principals of the schools, also, it will cause an increase of labor and responsibility, which, however, will be amply repaid by the increased dignity, doubtless also, eventually increased emoluments, of their position.

We have now come to a critical question—that of the site. Perhaps the most suitable spot in the whole city is that now occupied by the Croton distributing reservoir, on Fifth avenue, from Forty-first to Forty-second street; if that gloomy old Egyptian prison is to be pulled down, as now seems both probable and desirable, the mass of excellent dressed stone in it could be nearly all utilized in the new structure. This choice of situation, while diminishing the cost of building, would obviate any outlay for land. It would, at the same time, please those citizens who desire to see Reservoir Square extend out to Fifth avenue, for the new edifice, placed in the middle of the block, will leave on all sides an ample breadth of greensward and shaded walks.

Of the active measures to be taken toward accomplishment of this plan, one of the first will be to secure the passage of an adequate State law. This legislation, having been anticipated in several States both East and West, offers no new problem, unless the proposed use of the public schools may require State authorization. It should cover:

1. Raising and appropriating money for establishing libraries and reading-rooms, to be perpetually free to all.
2. Receiving and using gifts and bequests, of whatever nature.
3. Acquisition and absorption of other libraries, with their consent.
4. Gratuitous contribution by the State of all laws and other public books or papers.
5. Punishment of thefts or willful mischief.

6. Appointment for limited terms, without pay, of trustees or directors empowered to buy land and build, purchase books, engage staff of officials, and establish regulations.

The composition of this board of management should be planned by men of proved sagacity. Such, happily, have never been wanting in New York, and those of us who have observed the recent progress of the city in matters aesthetic, particularly the strenuous effort which resulted in the establishment of our Metropolitan Museum of Art, will recall some by character and education especially qualified, not only to assist in organizing such a board, but also to serve upon it themselves with distinction. In this board the City Government will naturally be represented; the Board of Education, also, and perhaps the trustees of the public schools—certainly Columbia College and the University of New York, and possibly each of the learned professions and the National Academy of Design. It is evident that there should be assured a large and constant majority entirely above political influence.

Shall the work be done? Indispensable, first of all, is an earnest, generous, unselfish co-operation by all who are in a position to lend aid, whether by word or deed. The trustees of existing libraries, the commissioners of education, the trustees of the public schools and the principals of the same, our fellow-citizens in the legislature and in the city council, clergymen and editors, gentlemen of wealth and families with a few books to spare—can all help on. Let them all help, and with their might, and there will arise swiftly and surely before our eyes a majestic structure, which shall be for centuries the glory and the blessing of our home.

#### THE COMMUNITY'S NEED OF A SUPER-INTENDENT OF THE CABINET OF THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

THE Worcester *Daily Spy* has the following report of an address by Mr. S. S. Green, delivered before the Worcester Natural History Society:

A distinguished Scotch instructor, who has taught much in Scotland and in this country, tells me that a boy in Great Britain who wishes to get at a piece of information knows better than an American boy how to go to work to find what he wants.

Those of us who have had an opportunity to observe the qualities of children in these two countries may not agree with this teacher.

Nevertheless, my observation in connection with a public library proves that, whatever the comparative qualifications of children of different

nationalities may be, our own boys and girls, and, as a natural consequence, most men and women, need a great deal of instruction in regard to methods before they are able to procure for themselves knowledge sought by them.

The success we have had in Worcester in building up a large use of a reference library has depended mainly upon the recognition of this fact, and the consequent provision of necessary assistance in the consultation of books and the inauguration of measures for teaching young persons how to search successfully for knowledge.

I came here to-night reluctantly, for I should like to be at the library, where I know there are many persons who would like my assistance.

I trust it will not be long before there is a superintendent here in this museum of natural history, and that he will find it difficult to get away from the rooms because of a demand for his services.

A boy sees a blue-jay in the woods. If our rooms are open, and there is a superintendent here to render assistance, he can come to them before his interest subsides, and, being enabled without difficulties so great as to discourage him to pursue inquiries, adds to his knowledge, increases his powers of observation, and finds rapidly growing up within him an interest in natural history and in science and knowledge generally.

School children in Worcester are frequently called upon to give orally or to write out a description of some animal or mineral. It is an excellent exercise, giving scholars facility in expression and composition. This description is generally obtained from books. An added advantage would follow were the children told to observe the animal or mineral itself, or were they sent to the museum of this society to look at it as preserved in this collection.

Thus the powers of observation would be cultivated, and children would learn to do what very few persons can do, namely, see an object when they look at it. The cultivation of the power of seeing a great many features of an object when looking at it, and of being able to remember enough of it to describe it accurately or even reproduce it as a picture, is one of great importance. ("Eye Memory" is the title of two very interesting articles by Charles G. Leland, in late numbers of the *Journal of the Franklin Institute*.) The scholar, after having examined an object for himself, can then come to the library to learn more about it—that is, what other and better observers have seen in the object. Children taught in this way would be better able than they now are to

recognize nature upon going out-of-doors, after having studied about it in schools and libraries. If this kind of work is to be done here in this cabinet, it must be constantly open and presided over by a competent naturalist, who feels enthusiasm for the dissemination of knowledge and mental culture.

You go to a show of cattle, and learn much by examining the animals yourself. How much more do you learn if accompanied by a companion who can explain the differences in the breeds of cattle, the numerous varieties of wool, and the points of a good horse.

Your visit in any town is made doubly interesting and profitable when you are accompanied by a local antiquary or artist, or by one who has been a moving power in creating the prosperity of the place.

Does not your heart sink within you as you enter a great museum, and do you not avoid going into museums, because without the possession of special knowledge such collections fail to interest you?

Now put into a museum a polite guide, who has a general knowledge of natural history and is ambitious to increase his knowledge, and it becomes a perfect delight to roam about before the shelves and cases.

Why should we not have a superintendent to make our collection interesting to visitors, and to help teachers, scholars, and others in informing themselves? The guide should not merely impart information, in the case of the young, but, doing enough to prevent discouragement, stimulate individuals to look and study themselves.

Dr. Raymenton, the president of this society, is doing wonders in the way of reviving an interest in it, and in showing how it may be made useful. But he cannot always give so much time to this work as he is giving now. In order to keep up a steady interest in the work of the society, we need here a paid officer, whose interest it will be to see to it that it is well done and that the society continues prosperous.

In constantly recurring practical matters and in the various avocations of life, it is found to be of great advantage to have formed the habits of observing and investigating, and to have become acquainted with the laws of nature. The mechanic, the manufacturer and business man reap great advantages from the cultivation of the eye and mind, and the acquisition of knowledge which comes from a close connection with a well-administered institution, such as ours, in youth.

These advantages are additional to those that we are all receiving to-day from the investigations of



scholars of previous generations or of our own time, which have given us improved steam engines and ships, the telegraph and the telephone. If it were not improper for me to state what goes on in the public library, I could point out to you business establishments in this city and vicinity that are reaping great advantages (pecuniary, I have no doubt) from the free use of the books and periodicals which treat of the branches of industry which they are interested in, and of the general principles of science.

George Stephenson was a man of large natural powers, but he knew that his success in life would have been greater had he been able to supplement his native sense by good schooling and access to scientific collections and libraries, and he was very careful to see to it that his son Robert became an educated as well as a practical engineer. He did not merely send him to school. He stood over him, and stimulated him to do his work well, and store up a capital of knowledge on which to draw when called on to practice his profession.

Do not all business men feel that they really need an interest in some pursuit aside from their regular occupations to make their hours of leisure profitable and pleasant? Such an interest is a great safeguard to young persons. It is needed by men in active business life, and in old age. It is needed by girls, too, and women. It is an important part of the mission of this society as well as of the public library to stimulate an interest in becoming acquainted with the principles of science, and to awaken a taste for becoming acquainted with the applications of science to industrial pursuits through study of the natural sciences, and their practical applications. Happy, indeed, are those organizations that can show practical men and students that they need each other, and that to native sense and good judgment must be added information and an acquaintance with the thoughts and experiences of other men in similar occupations to their own. I look out from some of the windows at the library upon a yard belonging to a prominent member of this society, which is full of rabbits and pigeons, fowls and other animals. The large family of boys that have been observing and caring for these pets with a father to go to to answer questions and this cabinet to consult, are growing up with tastes which will be a source of great enjoyment to themselves and of use to all with whom they come in contact.

There are other families where the children cannot be interested in books, but where they will constantly learn if they have ponies and monkeys and dogs and parrots, or access to a collection like this, where they can find a friend to talk with.

Do you say it is better to go into the woods and study animals and plants there? Well, it is better. But this society means to have numerous field-meetings, for bringing its members into immediate contact with nature.

The zoological gardens of London and Amsterdam, of Philadelphia and Cincinnati, are very useful. Let us hope we may have one here sometime.

Museums are very useful. Let us make the most of ours, and, taking advantage of the interest now felt in the Natural History Society, insure its permanency by placing in charge of our rooms an enthusiastic and well-informed superintendent.

The directors of this society think they have the opportunity to secure the services of a man of the right kind for a very moderate compensation. Let us secure these services, and enable the society, by all means at its command,—classes, field-meetings, lectures, pictures, books, and the cabinet of specimens,—to add to the power of the superintendent to do a good work in the community.

If you wish for examples of local inquirers, who, although in the humblest occupations, have become authorities in regard to the natural characteristics and the fauna and flora of the neighborhoods in which they have lived, read the lives of Edward, the Scotch naturalist, and of Robert Dick, baker of Thurso, as told by Samuel Smiles. The latter was a constant correspondent of Hugh Miller; and Sir Roderick Murchison, director of the Geographical Society of Great Britain, stated publicly that he had learned much from him, and that he was proud to call him his friend.

#### LETTERING OF BOOK-TITLES.

BY DR. HENRY A. HOMES, LIBRARIAN, NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY.

(From "*The Publishers' Weekly*.")

THE manner in which books should be lettered on the title-space on the back is worthy of consideration, in view of the present novel practice of some publishers. We refer to the frequent use on the leather or the cloth of the backs of new books of a popular character, in prose or poetry, of stamps on which the name of the author and his book is inscribed, not in plain Roman lettering, but either in some of the mediæval characters which have hardly survived the invention of printing, or in characters elongated or distorted in some unusual and fanciful form. They may be styled modern Gothic, old English, or they may be imitations from studies of the alphabets of Silvestre or Owen Jones, but none the less they are unknown or unfamiliar alphabets to nearly all readers. Even those accustomed to the arts of illumination



and to copying such letters for illustration, where needed, yet stumbling unexpectedly upon a title which is not in the usual lettering, must gaze curiously for some time before they can determine, from the few letters included in the title, to what period the alphabet in question belongs, and whether A, B, C, D, E, etc., may not be of a different century and script, and therefore a different letter, from the one which they at first supposed it to be. If merely the initial letter is distorted, it is alone sufficient often to confound the curiosity of the hurried inquirer. Indeed, many of these titles can only be easily read by the inventors of the lettering themselves.

We believe that the use of such lettering on titles of books is a mistake in judgment, and that the only design or object of lettering a title-space is lost by the present peculiar mode.

The chief object of lettering is that the title of a book, while standing upon a shelf of a store or of a library, or lying upon its front edge upon a counter, among hundreds of volumes alike in size and color, may be readily and promptly recognized and read. There are four parties interested in this prompt recognition by the eye: the bookseller and his clerks, that they may easily and without loss of time be able to hand over to a customer a book which has been inquired for; customers of all classes who hope to make a purchase, and who would fain glance rapidly over the backs of the new books, and learn their titles without vexatious trouble and delay; then, the owner of a modern library which is composed, perhaps principally, of the new books of the few past years, who wishes to pick from its shelves a particular book by its name, which he knows, but fails to identify, although he is looking steadfastly at the hieroglyphics which fail to designate it to his mind; and lastly, the publisher himself should be deeply interested, as the amount of his sales of books lettered as described must be perceptibly diminished, in consequence of the difficulty purchasers experience in deciphering their titles. A purchaser who has stopped into a store for a few moments, hoping to secure some book from the counter before the departure of the next train for his suburban village, repelled from nine books, whose titles did not explain themselves to his rapid glances, and would compel him to spend three or four times as many minutes as he could spare to find out their titles, in despair purchases the tenth whose title he could read, or perhaps leaves the store without consummating a purchase. He cannot afford the time to study out with deliberation the titles of the nine printed in mediæval, antiquated, or ornamental forms, and so the undesired

book with the easily readable title stands the best chance of being picked up and carried off.

The defense of this style of lettering is that it is a tasteful refinement of art, and a beautiful method of ornamentation. But the motive derived from the principle of the love of beauty should not be allowed to exert such an influence as to tempt us to make obscure and illegible that which, on account of its purpose, it is essential should be clear and easy to read.

The earlier and later book-binders whose marvels of tooling are the admiration of the world in the matter of lettering, did not modify the usual form of letters. In treatises upon book-binding where lettering and ornamentation are spoken of, not a single word is to be found about ornamenting the letters themselves. If we look over the letters inscribed upon the parchment backs of books from one to three hundred years old, or printed upon them in gold, we shall find that they conform to the usual alphabet of the day. This modern custom of fancy-lettering is not an invention of publishers, but has been inconsiderately accepted by them from artists and engravers whom they have requested to furnish embellishments for the backs of books, and who, under the guise of doing so, have ventured to remodel and shape the lettering itself, which should be left simple and distinct. We are not here objecting to an amount of ornamentation on the back of a book which shall hide its surface, if it is so desired; we desire only that in the midst of it, upon the title-space, the lettering should be in the usual and current form of Roman capitals. Similar thoughts like these must have controlled the action of many publishers, whose titles, with whatever brilliancy of ornamentation they may be surrounded, are not allowed to take any shape but that of these same Roman capitals; but as the contrary custom has been indulged in by others for many years consecutively, we have ventured to write these lines, both in their interest, as we hope, and in the interest of their readers.

#### VAN EVEREN NUMBERS.

We get at the general offices many inquiries about these minute but still necessary pests, small outside numbers of books. We find best and cheapest the Van Everen numbers, gummed and perforated like a sheet of postage stamps; but there are difficulties after the maker has done all in his power.

*Size.* For the outside of books use the smallest size. This is much more distinct than the best written numbers, and is large enough, except for rare cases where very dark rooms, very poor eyes, or some peculiarity of system might make the next

larger size better. As a rule, use the smallest size for the outside of books. For numbering shelves, alcoves, etc., use, of course, the larger sizes.

*Paper and color.* The maker and the Supply Department have given time and money to repeated experiments to get the best. Be satisfied with their results, and save your own time, money, and patience by not attempting odd notions in color, paper, size, style of type, etc. The standard, as kept on hand, is probably better than any you would devise after all your trouble, and it will be large extra expense to all concerned to fuss with these odd things made to order.

*Making to order.* If, however, you must have something different, send exact descriptions of what you want in writing.

They can be made at head-quarters much better and cheaper than you or any one else can get them made. You will, of course, understand that 50 numbers made to order will cost you more than 500 numbers taken from a lot of several millions made by machinery. Better leave color, paper, etc., to the maker's judgment. Confine your description to what is necessary, and make that plain. Figures and letters combined for the new classification which Mr. Cutter is getting out will be provided. If you are so unfortunate as to get up some other new requirement, tell just what you must have, and estimates of the cost will be sent you.

*Spoiling numbers.* By trying hard enough, you can sometimes spoil most of your stock of numbers. I quote from a letter of the maker the following suggestions:

"Number-labels in sheets should be kept flat, well wrapped, and under some pressure. They will then be secure from the effects of very dry or very damp weather.

"Numbered labels separately, *i. e.*, cut up, are best kept in series of little envelopes with open flaps [this reference is to the regular number-cases supplied by the co-operation committee], from which any number wanted can be readily taken; when not in use, press the little series of pockets (or envelopes) closely together, and thus exclude dryness, dust, and dampness.

"In short, Mr. D., hay-fever weather is as bad for numbers as for clergymen. When 'the amount of moisture in the air is large,' look out for polygamous tendencies among the gummed labels. They become 'sealed' to a degree that out-mormons the Mormons."

*Making them stick.* The trouble with all numbers is their coming off. With the Van Everen numbers this is because they are not properly put on. With others, it may be the fault of the paper or of the gum, both which must be very carefully adapted to this special purpose and to each other. People who think there is no art in making numbers that will stick well, had best make protracted experiments. A cure can usually be warranted.

The best plan we know for putting on the numbers is to pick them up with a pair of delicate forceps, such as chemists use to pick up their minute weights. The Supply Department can send these in brass at 30c.; nickel plate, 50c. With them one can pick up numbers twice as fast as with the fingers, as the points always catch on the paper, whether lying flat or in a corner. Keep a cup of water on the table, and immerse the number quickly in it, shake off the extra moisture that will cling in a drop, apply it at once to the exact position where it is wanted, as can easily be done with the forceps. Press it firmly down with a bit of blotting-paper, which absorbs the extra moisture. Moistening numbers on a sponge or with the tongue is apt to remove some of the gum, and sometimes all of the appetite.

The covers of some books need attention to secure firm sticking, specially black roan, which has an oily, polished surface. This is best guarded against by roughening the surface where the number is to go with a knife-edge or a bit of sand-paper. The glossy surface of some cloth-bound books can be made good by removing the glossing with moisture before applying the number. Mr. Van Everen writes me on this point, commenting on the above:

"The labels stick well on paper or leather covers, and on most cloth covers. However, if the book where the tag is to stick is moistened with a weak solution of tannin and water, it removes the glossing and insures the sticking. This need be done only in the case of new books. I have never had any trouble with labels put on as you have suggested; but the tannin tea has worked so well that I mention it."

*Ordering.*—This gives us frequent trouble. People scold because they cannot buy one or five or ten of a single number. The cost of each is so minute that it would be like selling single pins or needles instead of papers of them. Few understand that the expense of hunting out these little orders costs more than to give the whole sheet, and the maker would prefer to send the larger quantity at the same price. The difficulty will be removed by throwing away any numbers not wanted. There is, however, a better way. The numbers are put up in different forms: 100 on a sheet, all alike; 100 on a sheet, no two alike, running 1-99, 100-199, etc., up to 10,000. They are also furnished in envelopes of 50 or more numbers, cut apart, and all alike. If you wish only one or five or ten of certain numbers, buy so many sheets including those numbers. You will have then just what you want, and the extra numbers can be put into the envelopes of their own denomination—*i. e.*, buy sheets and tear out the numbers wanted for any of which you are sure you don't want 50. You thus do your own work of sorting numbers, and cannot complain at

the price charged for it, and very likely will never notice that it is any labor at all. It cannot be made less, and the gain is so great over any other system that you will not be dissatisfied.

*Compound Numbers.*—People often order numbers made for them in the form of fractions, which is indeed the most common way of applying them to books. This is expensive and very troublesome, as it requires so vast an assortment. It is the Chinese method of a type to each word instead of each letter. Make your fractions by pasting on two numbers, one just above the other, and all is simple and cheap. In an emergency, any number can be made by cutting apart or putting together other numbers. This latter is a poor plan as a rule, for if one-half the number were poorly put on it might come off, and the remaining part would make quite a different number. This trouble does not apply to the fractions, because the absence of a denominator would show at once that something was missing, and the inside of the book would be consulted.

*Keeping in order.* Above all things, don't let your box of numbers get in confusion. Keep them sorted carefully. In tearing out special numbers from sheets, as soon as the sheet gets honey-combed with vacancies and begins to show signs of going to pieces, tear it up and distribute the numbers to their proper envelopes. The greatest danger of ready-printed number-labels is "getting mixed."

*Ungummed.* Mr. Cutter expresses a preference for his labels ungummed. He applies them with a mucilage of gum arabic and a little gum tragacanth. Mr. Cutter also uses fingers instead of forceps in "picking up." I found it clumsy, slow, difficult to place the label accurately where wanted on the back of the book, and the label's numbers were constantly sticking to the hand or fingers. Forceps are less necessary with ungummed numbers.

MELVIL DUL.

#### LIBRARIES IN THE CENSUS.

DR. HENRY RANDALL WAITE, special agent, census office, Pelham Manor, Westchester Co., New York, has charge of the statistics of libraries for the present census. He is using every effort to make the information as full and reliable as possible, and has prepared his schedules of queries in consultation with leading members and officers of the A. L. A. A most valuable body of information will thus be collected and printed by the government, and librarians will reap all the benefits, at no cost except co-operation in giving the desired information.

We urge every reader of the JOURNAL to do

his utmost to make these returns complete and accurate.

In spite of this protest to the contrary, there are some so short-sighted that they will either forget these inquiries entirely, or else fill the blanks in haste and with little regard to either completeness or accuracy. Librarians who have not the facts asked for already made up where they can copy the figures, should make it their first duty to get at these facts for their own information. We can hardly overestimate the practical value of all these facts when tabulated and diagramed as they will be, and we feel safe in pledging to Dr. Waite the heartiest co-operation of every member of the A. L. A., and of every reader of the LIBRARY JOURNAL.

M. D.

#### BLANK-BOOK INDEXES.

A LIBRARY is or ought to be a mass of alphabetical indexing. At the best much must be in mss.—supplements to catalog, to Poole's index, contents of volumes, of essays, and miscellany, names of borrowers, etc., etc.

For quick reference, cards are vastly inferior to a book, beside the danger of misplacement or loss. The leaves of a book can be turned through the hand, and the eye runs down a narrow column so rapidly that nothing can take the place of a book index. I am speaking as one who believes in and uses cards very largely. Our English friends, who don't like cards, would be so much the stronger in expressing the need of a good blank-book index to fill out for these various uses. Many libraries use the common indexes, put everything beginning with S in a helter-skelter series on the pages headed S; but this is abomination, as all who have tried it will testify. To scatter along, leaving blank pages or spaces, is little better. Many readers look at the first page, and not finding what they seek, conclude that they have seen all the entries under that letter, as nothing indicates that more are to be found on turning the leaf. Another improvement (?) is the Vowel Index, on the plan of Dr. John Todd's famous Index Rerum. It ought to be a penal offense for any librarian ever to use so forced and unnatural a plan. It classifies the entries under A, E, I, O, U, Y, *i. e.*, under the first *vowel* that occurs after the initial letter. This puts *Staples* before *Seaman*, and outrages and confuses all one's instincts of alphabetizing. If such a book is to be used at all, it would serve a much better purpose to put on the page *Sa*, all entries having the second letter *a, b, c, or d*; under page *Se*, all second letters *e, f, g, or h*; under *Si*, all having *i, j, k, l, m, or n*; under *So*, *o, p, q, r, s, t*; under *Su*, *u, v, w, x, y, z*. This does fairly well,

giving 4, 4, 6, 6, and 6 letters in the groups. One objection to adopting this division is that enough people have used the pernicious vowel system to be misled by appearances.

Another and better index is made by some of the stationers, and has second letters, both vowels and consonants, printed on the margin of the leaves. This enables one to classify more closely, and greatly expedites consultation. This style of index is made for the ledgers of commercial houses having a vast number of accounts, but it is more nearly than anything else what the librarian wants for making mss. book catalogs, supplements to Poole, or other alphabetical indexes. I have recently made a tour of the leading stationers in Boston,\*examining every style of index to be had. No librarian wants any, except of the kind last mentioned above, and of that kind his choice lies between two—Burr's and Graves's—the first recently brought out, the other some three years old in its present improved form. These cost no more than similar books without their great improvements, and the prices, running as low as \$1.50, make them available for small work in poor libraries. I find nothing else that compares with either of these in excellence.

Without prejudice in favor of either, I reach the following conclusions, after an entire evening's careful comparison. The advantages common to both are: They discard the absurd vowel system, and arrange like any alphabetical catalog; they do not give mechanically so much space to each letter, but carefully adjust space to the combinations of letters that actually occur, omitting all that do not occur at all. Great pains have been taken to make these assignments of space accurate and practical. Burr's has cloth carefully pasted on the backs of the letters and parts exposed to the most wear. Graves's has the same protection on the face, the letter being printed on the cloth, which takes the direct wear of the fingers in using. I am not clear which is best, and should like testimony from experience. Each has an extension on the back leaf, which greatly aids quick consultation, and is a device that might well be added to our catalogs and Poole's index. This is a strip of very stout manilla (in fact, a light board), projecting from the edge of the last leaf about 5 mm., or  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. In turning the leaves, the fingers under this can much more readily manage the leaves than when under the cover or under the leaves, without this stiff extension. The Graves's extension folds over out of sight when not in use, but it is hardly an improvement. In both, three rulings for initials keep them in column, and aid in finding any name. The *Pages* column answers for book numbers, and

the wide column, *Residences*, takes short titles nicely. Both books are well made, of good paper, and strongly bound, and are "printed" indexes, *i. e.*, have the initial letters printed on the left of the pages, as well as on the outside margins.

Burr's is superior in having the notches all cut on curves, thus making tearing less easy than in the common angles, where tears always begin. The printed letters on the pages are of a lighter face, and match better with ms. than the over-heavy letter of the Graves's, which is too black and staring. The binding and mechanical work of the Burr's is a little finer and better than the Graves's, and it has in the Library Index three pages of interesting general matter on indexing—unfortunately, however, devoted to showing its importance rather than to giving practical hints. In comparing prices (which I have not yet done), the number of pages and lines should be noted in each. If one gives the names that a book will hold as equal to the total number of lines, and the other allows for the multitude of blank spaces that occur in every case, thus indicating the number that will fill up certain parts of the book and render a new index desirable, comparisons will be misleading.

The Graves I find best in the greater compactness of the thumb-notches, and because the second letters are in all cases above the first on the page, and within reach of the forefinger without moving the thumb from its place on the first letter. In the Burr, the notches are made larger, and are scattered up and down the whole length of the page. In practice, I find that I can open to fifty different references in the Graves much quicker than in the Burr, with no trouble from the letters being too compact in the Graves, *i. e.*, the finger does not open at the wrong place, or cover two notches at once. The Graves wastes much less space on the page because of this compactness. Dots before the second letter show if it is on the left page, thus saving time. For emergencies there are extra pages at the back, indexed.

The main feature of difference is, however, that Graves prints the first two letters all down the page, while Burr only gives them at the top once, leaving the rest to be written out. Fine penmen might prefer Burr, but it takes more time and is less legible. The printed letters guard against entries in the wrong place, being a constant warning, and, to my mind, the Graves index would be quicker to write up, and quicker to consult, the two most important features.

I think an index could be made for library use, combining the merits of both these, with rulings specially adapted to library wants. This should



also contain as a preface some brief practical hints on making and using indexes. Their importance seems almost an impertinent topic to a librarian, though it is admirable as an advertisement in the book-store. I hope to get one of these makers to get out such a Librarian's Blank-book Index, combining all the excellencies to be found for our special work.

Both Burr and Graves make large indexes divided down to three letters, and adapted for as many as 200,000 entries. For many library uses I believe these printed indexes are to be very widely used, and those of the profession who seek practical labor-savers should test the new candidates.

MELVIL DUL.

#### NEW CHARGING SYSTEM.

At the recent re-opening of the library, July 6, 1880, the following system was put in operation, which, as will be seen, is a modification of that described by Mr. Cutter (*LIBRARY JOURNAL*, Dec., 1879, v. 4, p. 445-46).

At the end of each book, held in place by a slit in the paper covering (or by a "pocket" if the book be not covered), are two slips (white and manilla), of uniform size with the standard catalogue card; and at the top of each is entered the book-number. The runner, when taking a book from the shelf to bring it to the delivery-desk, writes the applicant's registration number on both slips. The delivery-clerk, carefully comparing these numbers, dates the *white* slip and the borrower's memorandum, places the latter in the book and issues it, and places the two slips in their respective racks, whence they will be taken, for filing, at the close of the day. The file of white slips (*book-file*) is arranged in the order of the book-numbers, and in a separate numerical order for each one of the 14 days. The file of manilla slips (*borrower-file*) is made up of all the issues of the 14 days in one common order, which is that of the registration numbers. [Note.—As the heading of both white and manilla slips is the book-number, the arrangement by registration-number follows always the one *last entered* on the manilla slip.] When a book is returned, the slips are taken from their files and replaced in the book, and the book replaced on the shelf. The whole official record of the book is, therefore, so entered as not to be exposed to loss by careless handling, and satisfactorily answers the following questions:

(1) Is a given book *in* or *out*? (2) If out, *who* has it? (3) *When* did he take it? (4) When is it to be sent for, as *over-due*? (5) Has the book *never* been out? (6) How many *times* (and at what *dates*) has the book been out? (7) Has a

given *person* a book charged to him? (8) How many books (total) were issued on a given *day*? (9) How many in each *class*? (10) How many books are now *out*, charged to borrowers? (11) How many are at the *bindery*, etc.? (12) How many *persons* now have books charged to them? (13) Are these the applicants who registered *earliest* or *latest*? (14) Has a person had a given book *before*? (15) How many times has the book been consulted *at the library*?

[NOTE.—The above is an exact reprint of a lithogram copy received from Mr. Foster. It is evidently intended for use in answering inquiries about his new system. Such use of the lithogram is worthy of commendation. Anything that one is likely to want to explain, sooner or later, to a number of different people, can be written in this way, and a copy sent as occasion calls. The lithogram is already much used for obtaining information. It is certainly philanthropic for one to take the same pains to *give* new ideas that others take to get them.—ED.]

#### SLIP-INDICATOR.

JUDGE CHAMBERLAIN has introduced in the Bates Hall of the Boston Public Library a device to obviate the annoying long delays before a reader learns whether a book called for is in or out. In the old system a reader has sometimes waited twenty or thirty minutes only to learn that the book was not in. This difficulty inheres in all great libraries where there are, at certain hours, crowds of readers, and where runners are compelled to go long distances to look for books. By the new plan every book issued has a duplicate slip, postal-card size, filled with its numbers. These are arranged like a card catalog, with projecting guide-cards, bearing alcove and range numbers. This check-box contains, also, slips for all books lost or in the bindery, or withdrawn for any reason from regular places on the shelves. A large wooden block, brick size and shape, pushed against the end of the column of slips, keeps them upright.

The call-slips, as handed in to the desk, go first to this new check-box. A glance shows whether the book is off the shelves. If so, the slip goes back at once to the reader, thus saving his time and the legs of the runner. One girl does all the extra work, and at leisure erases the pencil numbers from the fine, heavy cards used for slips, which are thus used over and over like a slate. The idea of this is to afford a large card, of good quality, so as to handle easily. By using a very soft pencil the marks erase almost as easily as chalk.

It is thought that one-third the time is saved by this device, which I have named the slip-indicator.



Though original with Judge Chamberlain, it has also been used in many other libraries, and devised independently by one other, at least (Amherst College). Usually the box has done duty as a charging-box as well as an indicator. I have never known it used but with success.

In Amherst, I reduced the size of the slip to 5x5 cm. (2x2 in.), and used cheap manilla paper, costing only 12c. per 1000. We could thus afford to dispense with erasures. The reduced size saved three-fourths of the space, and answered every purpose. Finally, I devised the sloping check-box, described in v. 3, pp. 230 and 370, and v. 4, p. 14, of the JOURNAL. The little separate boxes enabled attendants to distribute, consult, or remove the slips in half the time required before. Instead of finding the place in a long row, and separating out the slip wanted, it was found alone, or with a few others standing loosely in its own box. In fact, it was common to read the numbers without touching the slip at all, and we saved by as much as sight is quicker than clumsy fingers. Often the box was empty, and the clerk saw at a glance that the book must be in, as none were out from the five shelves represented by each box. By constant use, one attains a marvelous speed in consulting such a box, and the time saved to runners is a very important item. It becomes doubly valuable in small libraries, where no special runners are employed, and the librarian gets all books himself. At Boston, whenever the runners are at leisure (every day more or less), they verify the box by taking a handful of slips, and going through the shelves to see that all books are out as marked.

We verified at Amherst only monthly, and found few mistakes. I cannot too strongly recommend this check-box and slip-indicator to libraries where books are scattered or on different floors. In small collections, where the books are all within three or four steps of the desk, it is of course unimportant for this use, though serving others almost as important.

MELVIL DUL.

#### USELESS WORDS.

I RECENTLY had occasion to visit a library where all the notices had about a half more words than necessary. They were less easily read, more crowded, and in all ways undesirable because of this verbiage. Words, words wherever they could be grammatically put in—*e. g.*, insted of "List of Periodicals," as heading for that list, a great staring THE is prefix—and so on. In notices, rules, etc., don't use an unnecessary word. Don't fill out a rounded sentence. Be clear, but, above all things, be brief. Don't, in the name of common

sense, preface a great, staring NOTICE to everything. It is meaningless, and hides rather than brings into prominence. A row of placards headed alike "NOTICE" are seldom read. Choose the significant word, and make that large and black. If the notice is "No Smoking," bring out those words so they catch every eye—and omit the senseless NOTICE. Intelligent people don't go about studying notices, but if their eyes catch a word bearing on something they are about to do, they will read and heed. A man may carry his umbrella through an art gallery with 50 **NOTICES** *not to carry umbrellas*, but 2 or 3 **UMBRELLAS** would catch the eye of every man carrying one. In short, in rules, notices, etc., bring out with black face or caps the significant word, and convey the sense clearly in the fewest possible words.

M. D.

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

##### THE FUTURE OF THE A. L. A.

NEBRASKA STATE LIBRARY, }  
LINCOLN, Nov. 29, 1880. }

DEAR SIR: By all means, "go ahead" with work of the "A. L. A.," and as long as the present incumbent of the Nebraska State Library is in office, put him down for \$25 a year in aid of the work. If there are 400 members of the Association, it seems to me the question of salary is easily solved by making annual dues \$5, and fixing the salary at \$1,500, certainly not less than \$1,200.

Very truly yours,

GUY A. BROWN.

Letters like the above are full of encouragement. Mr. Brown suggests an admirable lady for the A. L. A. work. On the other hand, a gentleman of long library experience, a graduate of Harvard, and with several years' practical experience in the book trade and in special cataloging, has offered to undertake the A. L. A. work, and open as well the Clearing-house for Duplicates if that is decided upon, at only \$1,200 a year guaranteed salary.

Mr. Brown's plan of raising annual dues would meet our wants, or, better still, the legacy or large gift which the A. L. A. so richly merits, and for which some of us have not only been hoping, but quietly working. The Washington Conference, with its other good work, ought to settle the questions raised in the last JOURNAL under "Past, Present, and Future of the A. L. A." I suggest for the new office the title of Treasurer. This office is vacant, and in fact the worker at the center must be Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, and might better be called so.

M. D.

the price charged for it, and very likely will never notice that it is any labor at all. It cannot be made less, and the gain is so great over any other system that you will not be dissatisfied.

*Compound Numbers.*—People often order numbers made for them in the form of fractions, which is indeed the most common way of applying them to books. This is expensive and very troublesome, as it requires so vast an assortment. It is the Chinese method of a type to each word instead of each letter. Make your fractions by pasting on two numbers, one just above the other, and all is simple and cheap. In an emergency, any number can be made by cutting apart or putting together other numbers. This latter is a poor plan as a rule, for if one-half the number were poorly put on it might come off, and the remaining part would make quite a different number. This trouble does not apply to the fractions, because the absence of a denominator would show at once that something was missing, and the inside of the book would be consulted.

*Keeping in order.* Above all things, don't let your box of numbers get in confusion. Keep them sorted carefully. In tearing out special numbers from sheets, as soon as the sheet gets honey-combed with vacancies and begins to show signs of going to pieces, tear it up and distribute the numbers to their proper envelopes. The greatest danger of ready-printed number-labels is "getting mixed."

*Ungummed.* Mr. Cutter expresses a preference for his labels ungummed. He applies them with a mucilage of gum arabic and a little gum tragacanth. Mr. Cutter also uses fingers instead of forceps in "picking up." I found it clumsy, slow, difficult to place the label accurately where wanted on the back of the book, and the label's numbers were constantly sticking to the hand or fingers. Forceps are less necessary with ungummed numbers.

MELVIL DUL.

#### LIBRARIES IN THE CENSUS.

DR. HENRY RANDALL WAITE, special agent, census office, Pelham Manor, Westchester Co., New York, has charge of the statistics of libraries for the present census. He is using every effort to make the information as full and reliable as possible, and has prepared his schedules of queries in consultation with leading members and officers of the A. L. A. A most valuable body of information will thus be collected and printed by the government, and librarians will reap all the benefits, at no cost except co-operation in giving the desired information.

We urge every reader of the JOURNAL to do

his utmost to make these returns complete and accurate.

In spite of this protest to the contrary, there are some so short-sighted that they will either forget these inquiries entirely, or else fill the blanks in haste and with little regard to either completeness or accuracy. Librarians who have not the facts asked for already made up where they can copy the figures, should make it their first duty to get at these facts for their own information. We can hardly overestimate the practical value of all these facts when tabulated and diagramed as they will be, and we feel safe in pledging to Dr. Waite the heartiest co-operation of every member of the A. L. A., and of every reader of the LIBRARY JOURNAL.

M. D.

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MELVIL DUL.

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It is thought that one-third the time is saved by this device, which I have named the slip-indicator.



Though original with Judge Chamberlain, it has also been used in many other libraries, and devised independently by one other, at least (Amherst College). Usually the box has done duty as a charging-box as well as an indicator. I have never known it used but with success.

In Amherst, I reduced the size of the slip to 5×5 cm. (2×2 in.), and used cheap manilla paper, costing only 12c. per 1000. We could thus afford to dispense with erasures. The reduced size saved three-fourths of the space, and answered every purpose. Finally, I devised the sloping check-box, described in v. 3, pp. 230 and 370, and v. 4, p. 14, of the JOURNAL. The little separate boxes enabled attendants to distribute, consult, or remove the slips in half the time required before. Instead of finding the place in a long row, and separating out the slip wanted, it was found alone, or with a few others standing loosely in its own box. In fact, it was common to read the numbers without touching the slip at all, and we saved by as much as sight is quicker than clumsy fingers. Often the box was empty, and the clerk saw at a glance that the book must be in, as none were out from the five shelves represented by each box. By constant use, one attains a marvelous speed in consulting such a box, and the time saved to runners is a very important item. It becomes doubly valuable in small libraries, where no special runners are employed, and the librarian gets all books himself. At Boston, whenever the runners are at leisure (every day more or less), they verify the box by taking a handful of slips, and going through the shelves to see that all books are out as marked.

We verified at Amherst only monthly, and found few mistakes. I cannot too strongly recommend this check-box and slip-indicator to libraries where books are scattered or on different floors. In small collections, where the books are all within three or four steps of the desk, it is of course unimportant for this use, though serving others almost as important.

MELVIL DUL.

#### USELESS WORDS.

I RECENTLY had occasion to visit a library where all the notices had about a half more words than necessary. They were less easily read, more crowded, and in all ways undesirable because of this verbiage. Words, words wherever they could be grammatically put in—*e. g.*, insted of "List of Periodicals," as heading for that list, a great staring THE is prefixt—and so on. In notices, rules, etc., don't use an unnecessary word. Don't fill out a rounded sentence. Be clear, but, above all things, be brief. Don't, in the name of common

sense, preface a great, staring NOTICE to everything. It is meaningless, and hides rather than brings into prominence. A row of placards headed alike "NOTICE" are seldom read. Choose the significant word, and make that large and black. If the notice is "No Smoking," bring out those words so they catch every eye—and omit the senseless NOTICE. Intelligent people don't go about studying notices, but if their eyes catch a word bearing on something they are about to do, they will read and heed. A man may carry his umbrella through an art gallery with 50 NOTICES *not to carry umbrellas*, but 2 or 3 UMBRELLAS would catch the eye of every man carrying one. In short, in rules, notices, etc., bring out with black face or caps the significant word, and convey the sense clearly in the fewest possible words.

M. D.

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

##### THE FUTURE OF THE A. L. A.

NEBRASKA STATE LIBRARY, }  
LINCOLN, Nov. 29, 1880. }

DEAR SIR: By all means, "go ahead" with work of the "A. L. A.," and as long as the present incumbent of the Nebraska State Library is in office, put him down for \$25 a year in aid of the work. If there are 400 members of the Association, it seems to me the question of salary is easily solved by making annual dues \$5, and fixing the salary at \$1,500, certainly not less than \$1,200.

Very truly yours,

GUY A. BROWN.

Letters like the above are full of encouragement. Mr. Brown suggests an admirable lady for the A. L. A. work. On the other hand, a gentleman of long library experience, a graduate of Harvard, and with several years' practical experience in the book trade and in special cataloging, has offered to undertake the A. L. A. work, and open as well the Clearing-house for Duplicates if that is decided upon, at only \$1,200 a year guaranteed salary.

Mr. Brown's plan of raising annual dues would meet our wants, or, better still, the legacy or large gift which the A. L. A. so richly merits, and for which some of us have not only been hoping, but quietly working. The Washington Conference, with its other good work, ought to settle the questions raised in the last JOURNAL under "Past, Present, and Future of the A. L. A." I suggest for the new office the title of Treasurer. This office is vacant, and in fact the worker at the center must be Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, and might better be called so.

M. D.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY.

EDITED BY CHARLES A. CUTTER.

[The extracts made in this department are much condensed, and connecting words are often altered or inserted in order to piece the sentences together.]

## A. Library economy, history, and reports.

CARLOS, E. S. The Library of Christ's Hospital. (In *Notes and q.*, Aug. 7.) 1 p.

CORAZZINI, F. Proposta di un ordinamento metodico delle pubbliche biblioteche del regno. (In the *Preludio*, Ancona, 16 Sept., and abstracted in the *Cronaca della bibliografia italiana*, 15 Nov.)

CINCINNATI (O.) P. L. Annual report of the librarian and treasurer, for the year ending June 30, 1880. n. p., n. d. 18 p. O.

Added, 11,117 v., 1,248 pm.; total, 118,955 v., 13,852 pm.; issued (home use) 257,591. (ref.) 151,082, (periodicals and newspapers) 360,694. The percentage of fiction was 62.7. The librarian suggests preparing either a brief dictionary catalog or a finding-list, the public having no catalog beyond that of 1871, which contains but one-fourth of the library, and the fiction and dramatic lists and the bulletins. The card catalog cannot be put before the public, because the Board of Education will not grant a room for the purpose.

"When it is considered that over two thousand people daily make use of the library, it is apparent that the money spent is very far from being wasted. It is seldom that we can measure in dollars and cents the usefulness of an institution whose benefits silently permeate the whole community, but occasionally an illustration presents itself. I am authorized by Judge M. W. Oliver and E. W. Kittredge, Esq., to state that the information derived from three volumes in the Library, which could not have been obtained elsewhere at the time, saved the people of Cincinnati, in the contract with the Gas Company, at least \$33,500 annually for the next ten years. How much more of the reduction of the price of gas was due to these books, cannot be certainly known. There can be no doubt that seven cents per thousand feet reduction was due to the assistance rendered by these books. This one item is alone more than one-half the annual cost of the library."

FAGAN, L.: Life of Sir Anthony Panizzi, K. C. B., late Principal Librarian of the British Museum, Senator of Italy, etc., etc. 2d ed. London: Remington & Co., 1880. 2 v. 8". [1] + 4 + [6] + 389 p. + portrait of Panizzi, etc.; [5] + 336 + 20 p.

"Panizzi taught the institution the way it should go. He found it feebly and illiberally managed. The principal librarian of that day deemed it self-evident that the building could not be opened on general holidays, 'when the most mischievous part of the population was abroad.' The secretary was equally clear that 'men professionally engaged in literary and scientific pursuits' were *ipso facto* disqualified for a seat among the governing body.

One influential trustee was so tender of the sinews of war that 'it was extremely difficult to get any assent on his part to any purchase that was of any amount.' Panizzi set himself from the first against this pettiness. He was not the man to tie up with red tape, or be tied by it. Whatever he did, right or wrong (and it was seldom wrong), was daringly done.

"Panizzi's personal relation to the Museum cannot be better defined than by the portrait of the ideal librarian, sketched by Mr. Carlyle before the Royal Commission of 1849: 'All must depend upon the kind of management you get within the library itself. In fact, after all one has said, everything must depend upon that. You must get a good pilot to steer the ship, or you will never get into the harbor. You can never direct the people on board by a speaking-trumpet from the shore. You must have a man to direct who knows well what the duty is that he has to do, and who is determined to go through that in spite of all clamor raised against him; and who is not anxious to obtain approbation, but is satisfied that he will obtain it by and by, provided he acts ingeniously and faithfully.' Mr. Carlyle had not, it should be observed, the faintest idea that he was drawing Panizzi's portrait while caviling at his management.

"It is not, of course, to be supposed that the administration which earned this guerdon was in all respects above criticism. Those who regard the removal of the natural history collections to South Kensington as a mistake must regret that it had Panizzi's advocacy, even though it would have been effected without it. The strength of the purely literary instinct disabled him from recognizing the advantages which literature and science derived from association under the same roof. 'He would,' said Macaulay, 'at any time give three mammoths for an Aldus.'

"The one point where Panizzi's practical instinct failed him was his imperfect appreciation of the value of classification. He accumulated treasures, and provided for their safe custody; but the treasure-house was necessarily a labyrinth, to which he neglected to furnish the clue. He repeatedly admitted the utility of a classified index in theory, but he did nothing to carry it out in practice. He was no doubt biased by his long and successful struggle against the far more pernicious error of those who would have drawn up the entire catalogue solely on a principle of classification. It remains for his successors to repair his oversight." —*St. James Gazette*.

"He was endowed with a remarkable memory and an amount of brain power which enabled him to work hard and long, and so to accumulate knowledge with little fatigue. He had the love of power which leads a man to spurn frivolous delights; his intellect was clear, his will was strong, his temper was hot. He possessed most of the requisites for victory in the battle of life, especially the rare power of ruling, the capacity for conciliating where it is expedient, and for crushing where it is necessary. Seldom doubting, never wavering, he steadily ascended until he had reached a height as remarkable as enviable." —*Athenaeum*, Oct. 16.

FALL RIVER, Mass. Ann. report. F. R., 1880. 12 p. O.

Added, 2,133 v.: total, 19,405; issued 108,061 v., 79,473 periodicals. A classed catalog is preparing.

GANZ, Nathan. The books in the library. A professional gentleman replies to Mr. Hubbard's strictures. (In *Sunday herald*, Nov. 28.)  $\frac{3}{4}$  col.

"The two principal lamentations of your correspondent are that the purchases of costly and valuable books are conducted 'exclusively in the interests of scholars, and that a very large proportion of the money available for books is spent for works not intended for general use.' Mr. Hubbard has, as all truly good men have, a haughty disdain for 'scholars'—everything should be for the 'people,' but forgetting thereby completely that, if through a public library only one scholar is benefited, there will be, at the same time, thousands of others indirectly through him; that the facilitating of one single writer's working will produce its direct effect on all his readers. Now, I would like to know what a public library should be for, if not, in the first instance, to afford to those wishing to instruct themselves, or to make researches, the necessary means to this end? But your correspondent does not forget to raise also the cry: Too many novels, too much fiction! Would he please tell us now what he would give to the 'people'? He is denouncing costly and valuable books—too much stuff; fiction, too—too much nonsense; but very carefully avoiding to tell us of what else a public library could possibly consist. Everybody knows perfectly that the class of popular science, or other books of instruction, written so that they could be understood without much elementary knowledge, is in general very limited, and, as far as I can judge, nearly all kept at the Public Library.

"... But even Mr. Hubbard cannot deny that, out of the whole circulation of books for home use, only 70 per cent. were of the fiction (including the juvenile) character. I consider this a percentage which, even if the purchase of this class of books should be extremely restricted, could not possibly be reduced, and which is, in my opinion, a very satisfactory proportion. When 30 per cent. of the circulation of a library is of a scientific and instructive character, we may fairly presume that this is all that could be expected. Your correspondent further pretends that, relating to French books, 'a steady stream, small but dirty, of vile books has been poured' into the library. I followed the acquisition of French books during the last year with great interest, but I am decidedly at a loss to know what he could possibly mean by that assertion, for I find that even Zola is not given out for home use, and that the whole modern naturalistic school, such as Huysmans, Vast-Ricouard, Hennique, Gros-Kost, Henry Céard, Guy de Maupassant, whose so-called immorality is still open to question, are not represented by a single work. His remark, finally, about the catalogue I consider—and I am justified in saying so—a mere nonsense. I have worked at the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris, and the British Museum, and can assure him that nowhere the search for a book is so simplified as at the Boston Public Library."

GREEN, S. S. The relation of the public library to the public schools. Repr. fr. the *Journal of soc. sci.* Boston, 1880. 18 p.

Also printed in LIBRARY JOURNAL, 5: 235-245.

HARTWIG, O. Die Pflichtexemplare d. deutschen Buchhändler. (In *Neuer Anzeiger*, May, June.) 2 + 3 p.

HUBBARD, James M. The Public Library. (In *Sunday herald*, Boston, Nov. 21.)  $\frac{1}{2}$  col.

"... The Boston Public Library was formed to carry out a certain definite end—the education of the people. ... Are the trustees still carrying out this object? To answer this question will be my endeavor, a task for which my qualifications are long service in the library and a hearty interest in its welfare. I will treat of the subject under the three heads—the purchase of books, the catalogues, and the administration; first, however, calling attention to the radical differences between a public library having such an aim and one like the British Museum. The latter is intended for scholars, and not for the people. It aims to be a storehouse of literature and historical material—a place where the preservation of books is an end of equal importance with their use. The former subordinates every end to the instruction and elevation of the people. In a library where this is the chief object, while scrupulous care will be taken in the purchase of all books, the greatest pains will be given to the selection of books for the studious clerks, mechanics, and school-children. Publishers' lists, literary and trades' journals, will be regularly examined by efficient persons, and the best books for these classes will be bought—without, however, neglecting the reasonable claims of the scholar. This being the general principle upon which a wise expenditure of the public funds would rest, the method actually pursued in past years is as follows: A small proportion is bought by direct order, and on the recommendation of the public. The most are sent in by agents, to whom general instructions are given, and, after a hasty inspection, some of the American books may be rejected, but all the foreign have been, as a rule, accepted. The result is that, so far as my experience goes, there has rarely been a foreign invoice which did not contain some practically worthless books. Not only so, but the French agent has been enabled by this means to pour a steady stream, small but dirty, of vile books into the library. This has been and is now the system, notwithstanding repeated protests, and in entire disregard of the advice of the superintendent in the report for 1878. Great labor is spent in searching sales catalogues, but it is exclusively in the interests of scholars, and a very large proportion of the money available for books is spent for works not intended for general use. Last spring a trustee—on his own responsibility, I have good reason to believe—took \$2,400, nearly a tenth of the annual appropriation, to a sale to spend for books not one of which could be of general use. Seven years ago, \$34,000 was paid for a collection still inaccessible to the public, and not fit for circulation, many of the books on account of their value, many on account of their character. Investigation alone will show how much money goes for mere curiosities, old newspapers and pamphlets, costly illustrated works, and unused foreign periodicals. What is done for the classes to whom the library was to be the means to attain a higher education? Novels and story-books, principally, are bought for them. Out

of 18,335 volumes purchased for the lower hall in six years, 13,098 were fiction and juveniles. If the branches are included, the amount probably exceeds 40,000, exclusive of those stories published in magazines and papers and those bought for the Bates Hall. Their circulation in the same time has amounted to over 5,500,000. The trustees call particular attention, in their last report, to the fact that 70 per cent. only of their popular circulation was of this character. A table appended, however, gives 74 per cent. as the total, while, if the averages were correctly estimated, 80 per cent. would probably be nearer the truth. This annual circulation of more than 750,000 novels and story-books would be appalling, even if the books were carefully chosen. But they are bought, good and bad indiscriminately, in utter disregard of the principle once in force, to buy only 'good novels . . . after their value had been fairly ascertained.' (Rep. 1866.) In consequence, many distinctly bad books, openly attacking morality and religion, and giving 'lively descriptions of the demi-monde,' are put into the hands even of the children. Considering this, the work of the popular department of the library assumes the proportions of a public calamity."

HUBBARD. Further facts. (In *Sunday herald*, Nov. 28.)  $\frac{1}{2}$  col.

"The catalogues of a library whose main object is the education of the people will be designed to give the easiest possible access to the books. The trustees, alive to the fact that the value of the library to the studious clerks, mechanics, and school-children will be just in proportion to the ease with which they can get at its contents, will regard as their first duty the putting a simple key to these contents into their hands. . . . There is no comprehensive printed catalogue for the lower hall, but there are five lists, two with notes, to part of the books, the latest printed over three, the oldest over ten, years ago. For the books not in these, readers must consult posters, 55 bulletins, and an assistant who alone has access to a card catalogue. For the Bates Hall there is no comprehensive printed catalogue, but there are, in addition to Jewett's Index and Supplement, three printed catalogues to about 12,000 books. That is, as the copies of the Index are nearly gone, the public will soon have a simple key to less than 50,000 of the 220,000 books. For the others, readers must consult posters, 55 bulletins, and "nearly 750,000" cards. (The branches, one excepted, have good printed catalogues.) Now this card catalogue, originally intended only as a makeshift to record the newest books, is entirely unsuited to the clerk and mechanic. It lacks simplicity. It follows a scientific method hard to understand, and is made with such mechanical obedience to rules as to often outrage the first principles of common sense. Being in great part written, tens of thousands of cards are illegible to those who do not read writing easily. It fills 75 badly lighted drawers, to which 30 persons can have convenient access at once. On busy days, to wait while some one slowly spells over the cards in his vain search, say, for the 'Iliad,' under Homer, is enough to discourage all but the most eager students. Had the trustees intended to invent a catalogue which should afford the most difficulties to readers, they could not have been more successful.

At the best, it is an uncertain guide, for, if a card is lost or misplaced, the book is practically lost. It is expensive. . . . The costly bibliographical details introduced, which serve only to confuse the reader, are proper only in the catalogue of the private collection of some millionaire. . . . The Prince, Ticknor, and Shakespeare catalogues, . . . in all three catalogues of 836 pages and about 12,000 books, cost \$50,000. Prof. Jewett, with half the force, in nine years printed catalogues of 1,943 pages and 120,000 books, costing less, I believe, than \$60,000. His catalogues embraced the whole library; these are for collections of early New England, Spanish, and Portuguese literature, interesting to a few scholars, and the Shakespeareana. . . . In 1873, Mr. Winsor introduced the system of popular catalogues with notes. This excellent and successful work ceased, with a few insignificant exceptions, when he left, three years ago. His idea of guiding the people in their reading is now used in the bulletins simply in the interests of the scholar, in costly lists of works, chiefly in foreign languages on learned subjects. When the reasonable wants of the mechanic or clerk or school-boy, who comes to the library thirsting for knowledge, and stands helpless and bewildered in the sight of the books he needs, have been satisfied, then, and not till then, will it be time to print lists of erudite books on the Renaissance or the Maya civilization. In a word, the chief strength of the catalogue department has been spent for years in a manner directly opposed to the principle of first making the contents of the library easily accessible to the ordinary reader."

HUBBARD. Its management. (In *Sunday herald*, Dec. 5.)  $\frac{1}{2}$  col.

"To manage, with a definite educational aim, a library which spends \$120,000 a year, employs 140 persons, and circulates annually over 1,000,000 of books, is no easy task. The natural method will be to place a strong and capable man at the head, with full powers and responsible to the trustees, who will have a general oversight. What is the course pursued at the Public Library? The whole administrative power is carefully vested in four standing committees of the trustees, the librarian being without power save as he may receive it from them. Though this method is condemned by all experience as unbusiness-like and inefficient, still it might be assumed that the trustees will have reduced its necessary evils to the smallest possible amount by constantly using the knowledge and experience of the various officers. Especially would this be the case with those on the committee on 'books and catalogues.' I was second in rank in the catalogue department nearly six years, and during that time not only was never consulted by any member of this committee in respect to its work (except by the president of the board, *ex officio* a member), but I never even knew who composed it. Exactly similar to this was the experience up to March, 1880, of the head of this department. Now, here are three or four gentlemen of various occupations, who can devote a little spare time to business often involving details of the most technical character and demanding special knowledge and large experience for its wise management, who have discharged their duties for years without consultation with the responsible



heads of the department. With such a system and so administered that the boy who runs for books and the trained scholar are of equal value, so far as shaping the policy of the library is concerned, to carry out any aim save the simplest—the accumulation of books—is impossible. It deadens the powers of the men who serve under it and effectually blocks all progress in library economy. The work of the library is carried on to-day almost as it was thirteen years ago, the principal changes being in the forming of branches, the printing only of costly special catalogues, and the reckless purchase of books. With no individual responsibility, there can be no rigid oversight of the departments. For instance, three years ago the cost of work in the bindery was 25 per cent. less than when done out of the library (Rep., 1877); now it is said to cost 30 per cent. more. One of the contracts for foreign books has been long held by a New York importer, though a Boston book-seller, supplying other libraries, stood ready to do the same work at a less price. The statistics are untrustworthy. I have already called attention to the fact that 70 per cent. is given in one place in the report, 74 in another, neither of which are correct, as representing the fiction and juveniles circulated; so an examination of the figures relating to a single collection in the lower hall, assuming them to be correct, reveals an unreported deficit of over 800 books. In a government by committees it is inevitable that the power should fall into the hands of that member having the largest experience and the most time. Naturally, important matters will be decided by him without proper reference, employees will be dismissed at his command alone, his views and tastes will have an overwhelming influence on the policy of the library. It needs no prophet's gift to foresee that if this system, in which the power, even to the smallest details, is exercised by one, and the responsibility rests upon another who is really powerless, prevails much longer, that dangers must arise which will threaten not only its good name but its very existence."

KREHL, Ludolf. Ueber die Sage v. d. Verbrennung d. Alexandrinischen Bibliothek durch die Araber. Florenz, 1880. 24 p. 8°.

Extract from the "Atti del iv. Congresso Int. degli Orientalisti." Rejects the legend of the burning, and maintains that there was very little left of the library when the Arabs captured Alexandria.

LASINIO, F. I codici orientali delle biblioteche italiane. (In *Bibliofilo*, no. 10.)

A MODEL library; the treasure-house of Brown University. (In *Sunday herald*, Boston, Nov. 7.) 2½ col.

PETZOLDT, J. Alcuni pensieri sull'ordinamento delle biblioteche tratti dall'opera Die Bibliothekenlehre del Dott. P. per F. Garbelli. Brescia, tip. Apollonio, 1880. 26 p. 8°.

PETZOLDT, J. Das Library journal und der Anzeiger für Bibliographie. (In *Neuer Anzeiger*.) 1½ p.

Inquires how it is that two Library Associations, both with a large roll of members, could not support the LIBRARY JOURNAL for more than five years,

while he, without any such support, has conducted the *Anzeiger* for 41 years. The answer is that his periodical owes its long life to an extraordinarily self-sacrificing publisher,—an encouraging thought for the publisher of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, who has sacrificed so much for it. Petzholdt apparently does not know that the "two Library Associations" have done nothing whatever for the JOURNAL, except to allow it to print their proceedings gratis.

WARE, H. Harvard College Library, No. 1. (In *Harvard register*, Sept.) 1½ col. — No. 2. (Oct.) 4½ col., with a portrait of Justin Winsor.

To the BIBLIOTHÈQUE de l'Arsenal, says the *Polybiblion*, already so rich in historical documents, has been added a new section, that of political journals published at Paris. All these, which are deposited in it by law, may hereafter be consulted,—not, indeed, day by day and in single numbers, but in bound yearly, semi-annual, or quarterly volumes.

AT CAMBRIDGE the Library Committee reports that during the past year the libraries have been enlarged by 1,180 volumes. To the University of Oxford the Committee is indebted for a selection from the publications issued from the Clarendon Press, to the value of £50.

The *Graphic* for Nov. 6 contains (p. 452-3) cuts of the public library and museum at Melbourne. The *Illustrated London news* for Nov. 6 has a cut of the Cardiff Free Library and School of Art, and a note of half a column about it.

#### B. Catalogs.

BROOKLYN LIBRARY. Analytical and classed catalogue: authors, titles, subjects, and classes. Brooklyn, 1878-80. General t. p. + 3 t. p. of parts + 4 p. of prefaces + 1,110 p. + (under Shakspeare) 6 extra p.

Mr. Noyes introduces his great work, at last completed, in a brief and interesting paper:

"It aimed, to use another's words, 'to marry the classed and dictionary systems, so long kept asunder.' There is one general alphabet of (1) authors, (2) titles, (3) subjects, and (4) classes; with an alphabetical arrangement of subheadings under general and complex subjects. The author and title entries speak for themselves, while the larger class divisions of the Catalogue correspond, in the main, to the distribution of books on the library shelves, but with a much more intelligible, self-explanatory, and exact alphabetical arrangement; and with all affiliated topics bound together by a network of cross-references. As a working catalogue for all classes of readers and students, it is not too much to say that it has received the warmest expressions of approval from the large constituency who habitually use this library, from many librarians and scholarly persons in this country and in England, from the press, and from leading booksellers.

To sum up, statistically, certain features of the Catalogue:

I. The author-entries in a library of say 60,000 volumes, number about 30,000; titles of volumi-

nous collective works, and of periodicals, counting as single entries. The most extensive author-subject heading, comprising the works of Shakspeare, with Shaksperian criticism, methodically arranged, embraces 12 pages.

II. Of title-entries, carrying cross-references to the author's name, there are about 12,000, of which 1,794 are titles of plays, analyzed from collective works. The number of title-entries is a little over one-third of the number of author-entries.

III. Of distinct subject and class headings there are about 400, irrespective of geographical names and names of persons. Of these, about 30 are specially prominent and complex, with subject matters and subdivisions more or less numerous, arranged in alphabetical order.

Of subheadings occurring under more general subjects, there are about 3,000, represented in the general alphabet by cross-references.

IV. The principal subject-entries (not analytical) number about 26,000.

V. The Catalogue is very largely analytical and synoptical. The subject-entries, by analysis of collective works and collections of essays, amount to somewhat more than 13,000, and of articles in the periodical literature of the last twenty-five years, to 11,400, or a total of about 25,000 analytical subject-references, bibliographically exact, in addition to the 26,000 principal subject-entries.

The contents of collections, and of collective and miscellaneous works, are very generally given, for the most part in alphabetical order; and, when practicable, are placed under the subject. In such cases a cross-reference is usually made from the author-entry to the subject-entry, to avoid repetition and loss of space.

VI. Topical or subject cross-references, *i. e.*, cross-references from specific topics to the more general class that includes them, or from one heading or subheading to other headings or subheadings, amount to about 10,000.

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY. Finding-lists. 5th ed. Chicago, Feb., 1880. 10 + 301 p. O.

No advertisements.

HARVARD UNIV. LIBRARY. Bulletin, *n. s.*, Oct. 1, 1880. P. 61-92. O.

Contains Russian nihilism, by I. Panin; Accessions; and contin. of the Bibliog. of fossil insects, the Halliwelliana, and the catal. of Lee mss.

KÖN. GEOL. LANDESANSTALT U. BERGAKADEMIE. Katalog der Bibliothek. 2. durch e. Nachtrag bis Ende 1879 verm. Ausg. Berlin, Ernst & Korn, 1880. 17 + 661 + 3 + 49 p. 8°, 6 m.

LINOLIAN AND BROTHERS' LIBRARY, Yale College. Catalogue. 1st suppl. N. Haven, 1880. 220 p. O.

Dictionary, with imprints and contents. Mostly title-a-line.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE LIB. Catalogue. Boston, 1880. 6 + [1] + 1,047 p. I. O.

The Massachusetts State Library has issued its fourth catalogue (the dates of the other three are

1831, 1846, 1858). It is of the "dictionary" type, with imprints and lists of the contents of collected works. It is very carefully and thoroughly made, and worthy to rank with our best American catalogues. It is worthy of note, in the present state of the discussion on female employes in libraries, that this catalogue is entirely the work, both in plan and execution, of a lady, assisted by another lady, but not by any male supervision. It is not peculiar in this respect, however, as the catalogues of the public libraries of Brookline and of Concord, in the same State, were women's work, and were both well made. The present catalogue goes farther in one respect than is customary, giving the number of pages of volumes when it exceeds six hundred or is less than one hundred. The book is fairly well printed, except that heavy-faced type has a cheap look. A work of this magnitude ought to have a really handsome type for the authors' names. But this is a reproach to be addressed to the printer, not to the compiler.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Catalogue of the central leading department; by W. J. Haggerston. N.-u.-T., 1880. 8 + 329 + [2] p. O.

Dictionary (authors, titles, subjects); no imprints; no notes; copious contents; analytical references. Contents are given of the reviews (Edinburgh, Quarterly, Blackwood, Contemporary, etc.). I have some doubts of the expediency of these, costly both to make and to print, in view of the approaching publication of Poole's Index, by means of which any subject can be found infinitely more conveniently than by looking over these long columns of fine print. However, this is a matter for the library authorities to consider. The public has no right to complain, when these 300 pp., containing 80,000 references to 20,000 volumes, are sold for the insignificant sum of one shilling.

A good feature is that "all novels and tales appearing in the magazines have not only been shown in the [Contents], but in addition have been catalogued under authors and subjects [titles?] in their proper order." On some subjects—as Angling, Eastern question, Franco-German war, Portraits, Sermons, Shakespeare, Zulu war—references are made to articles in magazines, as well as to books. In short, a great deal of useful work has been compressed into a very small space.

PROVIDENCE (R. I.) P. L. Finding-list. Prov., 1880. 217 + [1] p. I. O. 50 cts.

Dictionary (author and title); without imprints, cross-references, and contents, which are given in the card-catalog. "Each title, except in fiction and juveniles, has the date, either of the time when the work was prepared, or the period of time covered by the narrative. Thus the date [1833] after a treatise on chemistry, of course warns off a student who wants a recent work. And the dates [1618-48] after the title 'Thirty Years' War,' serve to fix this historic epoch in the reader's mind. This is also the case with biographies, where the dates of birth and death are given, as Washington [1732-99]; Dante [1265-1321]; or Cesar [B. C. 100-44].

"Biographies are entered under the author and subject, but all other works under author and title.

There are in this printed finding-list, therefore, no such group-headings as 'Geology,' 'Rome,' or 'Animals.' These, however, will be found in the card catalogue, at the library. And, besides this, the system of numbering employed is itself a classification, giving a clue to the nature of the book. By consulting the schedule of classification at the end, it will be easy to determine the true classification of the book, even in such ambiguous titles as 'The Holy War,' 'The Coming Race,' or 'Our Max.' . . . This finding-list constitutes only one portion of the general scheme of library cataloguing, other portions of which are the bulletins, the class lists, the card catalogue, the daily notes on current topics, posted at the library, and the special reference lists of works relating to a given subject, prepared for readers, and the daily announcements of latest books."

At the end are the schedule of classification (Dui system, carried out to four, and sometimes to five, figures) and a subject-index to the schedule. The finding-list, therefore, is one of the most completely appointed ever made. The Cutter abbreviations for Christian names are used (E: = Edward, G: = George, etc.).

QUARITCH, Bernard.

"Mr. Quaritch has issued another catalogue, his largest, and, he says, his last. It is a volume 6½ inches thick, contains 2,395 pages, describes 28,009 books, and has an index of 228 pp., with about 55,000 references. We are fairly lost in amazement at his persistent ingenuity."

STOCKHOLM. KONGL. BIBLIOTEKET. Handlingar, 1, 2. Stockholm, 1879-80. 27 + 57; [1] + 12 + 8 + 128 p. O.

"The Royal Library at Stockholm has published two remarkably well-printed numbers of its 'Handlingar'—Transactions, or, as libraries here usually say, Bulletin. The first contained the yearly report for 1878, and a list of Sweden's older liturgical literature; the second gave the report for 1879, and an account of the epistolary collection in the library. Each correspondence is described, in a general way, in from half a page to a couple of pages, and a list of the correspondents' names is given, with the years covered and the number of the letters. At the end of the volume an index refers to every writer's name. Of course, many belong to persons known only in Sweden. We see, however, the names of Axel Oxenstierna, Hugo Grotius, Charles XII. and several other of the kings, and among the writers of one or two letters Beaumarchais, Frederic the Great, A. W. von Schlegel, Tegnér, Voltaire, and Oehlenschläger. It will be an excellent thing if libraries which have valuable collections of manuscript letters get into the way of publishing such lists as this. We remember only a single similar one issued by a library in this country—the list of manuscripts at the end of the catalogue of the Prince collection in the Boston Public Library. We might add the catalogue of President Sparks's mss., which are now deposited in Harvard College Library, though that was published by Mrs. Sparks, and not by the Library. In both these catalogues the subject of each letter was briefly given."—*Nation*, Oct. 21.

TROYES. BIBLIOTHEQUE DE LA VILLE. Catalogue. T. 7. 10 + 576 p. 8°.

"This catalogue, by Emile Socard, keeper of Troyes Library, is an excellent bibliography of works relating to Champagne, a very interesting province, despite the French proverb: 'Ninety-nine stupid animals and one human being are a hundred Champenois.' Troyes is still an attractive city, for some of its mediæval splendor, when Troyes Fair drew all Europe to Champagne's capital, still lingers there. We get Troy weight from this fair. The 7th vol. contains only works relating to the history of Troyes and Aube county."

### C. Bibliography.

ARLÀ, C. Vocabolario bibliografico. (In *Bibliofilo*, no. 10.)

BALAGUER, A. Bibliografía epigráfica de Cataluña. (In *Revista de ciencias históricas*, Aug.)

BLADES, W. The enemies of books. London, Trübner, 1880. 13 + [2] + 110 + [2] p.

"With the knowledge of all the enemies of books enumerated by Mr. Blades, the book-collector might abandon as hopeless the task of preserving his beloved volumes. Fire and water, gas and dust, the bookworm and the book-binder, are all arrayed against him. The bookworm is often heard of, but rarely seen. A kind friend sent one to Mr. Blades last year, but the poor fellow was killed by kindness—it sickened and died. A second specimen, "a fat, glossy fellow,"—the language is almost as kindly as that of Izaak Walton when treating of another kind of worm,—was found among the books at 'Bodley.' Mr. Blades put it aside, with the intention of studying its habits and development; but, unfortunately for the interests of science, the attention of Dr. Bandinel was drawn to it, and the bookworm was soon crushed out of existence. In America it is, and will, we hope, long remain, a great curiosity. In spite of this happy freedom from the company of the bookworm, our brethren across the water have not much to boast of. Its absence is more than made up by the presence of innumerable cockroaches, which fear 'neither light nor noise, neither man nor beast.' The domestic servant is, perhaps, the greatest danger of all. Is there a librarian who has not turned pale when he thought of Warburton's servant burning the early plays which her master loved; or laughed, in spite of himself, at the servant of Coleridge burning the spare copies of the *Watchman*, and apologizing for the act with unconscious drollery? Many years ago Mr. Blades discovered the remnants of a copy of Caxton's edition of *The Canterbury Tales*, which had been burnt, leaf by leaf, in a French Protestant church in London. The library is better looked after now."—*Acad.*, Nov. 20.

BOOK-BINDING as a fine art. (In *World*, N. Y., Nov. 26.) 1½ col.

THE BOOK-STEALER. (In *Saturday rev.*, Oct. 23.) 2½ col.

- CHRISTIE, R. C. Descr. catalogue of the books written, edited, or printed by Dolet. (*In his Etienne Dolet, the martyr of the renaissance.* Lond., 1880, 8°.)
- CRESCIMANNO, Vincenzo. Bernardino Zendrini; cenni bibliog. Palermo, tip. della Forbice, 1879. 29 p. 16°.
- DECQ ET DUHENT, *booksellers, Brussels*. Bibliographie juridique belge, 1830-79. Bruxelles, 1880. 131 p. 8°.
- EGGER, E. Histoire du livre depuis ses origines jusqu'à nos jours. Paris, Hetzel, 1880. 8 + 323 p. 18°. 3 fr.
- Noticed by B. van Dijk, in *Nieuwst. f. d. Boekhandel*, 10 Sept. 2 col. First appeared in 1878, in the *Magasin d'éducation*. Unlike Delon's "Histoire d'un livre," which related to the manufacture of books, this is chiefly literary.
- GENERAL bibliography on climate, from 1685 to 1830. (*In Scientific roll*, no. 1. London, Nov. 11.)
- LA BORDERIE,—de. Archives du bibliophile breton; notices et documents pour servir à l'histoire littéraire et bibliographique de la Bretagne. Tome 1. Rennes, 1880. 10 + 180 p. 18°.
- LOW, S. English catalog of books for 1879. London, Low, 1880. 112 p. O. 5s.
- OZIL, Paul François Stanislas. Etude bibliog. et clinique du nitrite d'amyle. Lille, imp. Danel, 1880. 162 p. 4°.
- SALVO-COZZO, G. Giunta alla lettera A della Bibliografia siciliana. (*In Archivio stor. sicil.*, v. 4, pt. 4.)
- UNFLAD, Ludw. Die Shakespeare-Literatur in Deutschland; Versuch. e. bibliograph. Zusammenstellg. der in Deutschland erschienenen Gesamt- u. Einzel-Ausgaben Shakespeares u. der literar. Erscheingn. üb. Shakespeare u. seine Werke, 1762-1879. München, Unflad, 1880. 3 + 59 p. 8°. 3 m.
- "Strangely defective. Is it possible that Herr Unflad is unacquainted with Thimm's much fuller 'Shakesperiana,' with its Supplement of 1872? Among the strangest omissions is that of Karl Elze's great volume, 'William Shakespeare' (1876). A fantastic chronology of Shakespeare's plays is appended, which ought to disappear from a second edition."
- VERALLI, Giuseppe. Piccola bibliografia ideologica minerale della provincia di Bergamo. Bergamo, tip.-lit. Gaffuri e Gatti, 1880. 31 p. 8°.
- VISMARA, Ant. Bibliografia di F. D. Guerrazzi. Milano, tip. Bernardoni di C. Rebeschini, 1880. 36 p. 8°.
- Repr. from the *Bibliog. italiana*.
- WARREN, J. Leicester. Guide to the study of book-plates (ex-libris). See *LIB. JOUR.*, p. 286.
- There is an article apropos to this in *Sat. rev.*, Oct. 23. 1¼ col.
- WHEATLEY, H. B. Book-binding. (Pages 152-154 of *The antiquary*, Oct., 1880.)
- M. JULES DUKAS has published (Paris, Techener) a bibliographical and literary study on John Barclay's *Satyricon*.
- MARCUS D. GILMAN, of Montpellier, the librarian of the Vermont Historical Society, has completed his bibliography of Vermont, in about 6,000 titles.
- MR. F. POLLOCK has prefixed to his "Spinoza, his life and philosophy," an excellent bibliographical list of all the works on Spinoza which deserve especial attention.
- MR. MCALISTER writes to *Notes and queries*, Oct. 16, p. 307, that he is "engaged on a work on libraries and librarians," and that "notes, biographical and statistical, on libraries and librarians past and present, will be welcome."

## D. Indexes.

[GRISWOLD, W. M.] General index to the *Nation*, v. 1-30, July 1865-Sept., 1880. Boston, 1880. 43 p. 8°.

"The compiler has ready in mss., and will publish, if he can secure a number of subscribers (at \$3.00 each) large enough to guarantee the cost of printing, 'An index to articles on history, biography, travel, philosophy, literature, and politics, contained in collections of essays, etc.' This index includes: 1st. The best English, German, and French essayists; 2d. Collections, such as Cobden Club essays, Oxford and Cambridge essays, Der neue Pitaval, etc." Libraries will be very foolish not to subscribe to this. Even a badly made index to such papers would be a boon, and the author has shown, by his index to the *Nation*, that he knows how to make a good one. He has also "in press an Index to the *Atlantic monthly*, supplementary both in time and space to that published in 1877. The latter was not a subject-index; the object of the present compiler is to bring information upon special points within the reach of those seeking it. He has, accordingly, gone over the 38 v. with the Index, and wherever it has seemed to him that the letter did not serve as a key to the contents of an article, he has indexed it anew. To v. 39-46 the work is a complete index. Price, \$1.00 in paper, \$1.50 in cloth."

"In preparation, general indexes to *The International review*, v. 1-9, and to *Scribner's monthly*, v. 1-20. Subscriptions to the latter (\$2.50 in paper, \$3.00 in cloth) are requested in advance."

ORDWAY, Albert. General index of the journals of Congress, 1st-10th Congress incl.; a synoptical subject-index, 1789-1809, with references to the debates, documents, and statutes. Wash., Gov. Pr. office, 1880. 5 + [1] + 151 p. Q.



## REFERENCE LISTS ON SPECIAL TOPICS.

BY W. E. FOSTER.

The two following references are in connection with a course of five lectures on "Early American history," delivered in 1879 by Professor Diman, of Brown University, at the Rhode Island Normal School.

## THE FOUNDATION OF THE AMERICAN COLONIES.

[References to Professor Diman's lecture of May 17, 1879; with additions, etc.]

## A. The European colonial system.

See Heeren's "Political system of Europe and its colonies."

See Veats's "Growth and vicissitudes of commerce," p. 380.

In its present greatly modified form, it is discussed (1870) by Mr. Froude. ("Short studies." Series 2, p. 149-77, Am. ed.)

## B. Discoveries preceding permanent settlements.

See Bryant's "Popular history of the United States," v. 1.

Holmes's "Annals of America" (v. 1) is a chronological summary.

See Anderson's "America not discovered by Columbus," for the Norsemen's visits. See, also, Earnum's "Visits of the Norsemen to Rhode Island."

See T. Irving's "Conquest of Florida" for Spanish discoveries.

See Parkman's "Pioneers of France" (p. 5-164) for French discoveries.

In Force's "Tracts" are reprinted the documents relating to early English discoveries and settlements.

## C. Colonial development [1607-1776], from the home government's point of view.

NOTE.—In Ridpath's "United States" (opp. p. 44) is a convenient map, showing "English grants," 1606-1732.

The English colonies planted merely as trading corporations. May's "Constitutional history of England," v. 2, p. 513-17 (Am. ed.).

The East India company an analogous institution. See Mill's "British India," v. 2.

Chalmers, in his "Revolt of the American colonies," traces the progress of British legislation in colonial matters (fr. British state papers).

## D. Colonial development [1607-1776], from the colonists' point of view.

Virginia's right of self-government asserted by the London Company, 1623-24. See Bancroft's "United States," v. 1, p. 144-50 (ed. 1875).

The extraordinary transfer of the charter by the Massachusetts Bay Company, 1629. See the "Records of the governor and company of Massachusetts Bay," etc., v. 1, p. 1-70.

Cf., also, Palfrey's "History of New England," v. 1, p. 301-11.

Also, Winthrop's Journal, v. 1, "History of New England."

Also, the valuable collection of original documents in Young's "Chronicles."

Also, the "Lectures delivered before the Lowell Institute, on subjects relating to the early history of Massachusetts," 1869.

This manifestation of local independence is also discussed in Grahame's "United States," book 2, ch. 2.

In John Fiske's paper, "Why the American colonies separated from Great Britain" (*Fortnightly Review*, Aug. 1, 1880, p. 152-53).

And in Goldwin Smith's paper "On the foundation of the American colonies." ("Lectures on the study of history," p. 184-215.)

Cf., also, Mr. Arnold Green's address on "The New England town system." (Providence city documents, 1875.)

Also, Professor Joel Parker's paper on "The origin, organization, and influence of the towns of New England" (in *Mass. Hist. Proc.*, Jan., 1866).

## E. The inevitable antagonism.

See Frothingham's "Rise of the republic," ch. 1.

See Greene's "American revolution," p. 9-10.

## THE ALIENATION OF THE AMERICAN COLONIES.

## A. Objection to the ideas of popular government as held by the colonists.

Their fundamental principles were inherited from their English ancestry. See G. W. Greene's "Historical view of the American revolution," p. 7-14.

Also, Creighton's "Half-hour history of England," p. 184-86.

Also, Frothingham's "Rise of the republic of the United States," p. 1-71.

Also, Thompson's "The United States as a nation," p. 55-105.

John Adams, in his letter to the Abbé de Mably, 1782, attributes the growth of these ideas to four institutions: (1) The towns; (2) the congregations; (3) the schools; (4) the militia. (*Works*, v. 5, p. 492-96.)

See, also, A. de Tocqueville's "Democracy in America," v. 1.

The widening difference of opinions on this point is well summed up by John Fiske, in his article, "Why the American colonies separated from Great Britain." (*Fortnightly Rev.*, Aug. 1, 1880, p. 151-57.)

## B. Antagonism as to the constitutional relations of the colonies to the government.

a. The preference of the colonists was for the

"colonial" form of organization, with a charter allowing "local self-government."

See Frothingham. p. 14-28.

Those originally organized with colonial charters were: (1) Virginia, 1606-24; (2) Massachusetts Bay, 1629-84; (3) Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1651-63, 1663-1776; (4) Connecticut, 1662-87, 1689-1776.

See the U. S. publication, "The federal and state constitutions."

- b. There were also the colonies organized under a grant to a "proprietor." (1) New Hampshire, 1607-42; (2) Maryland, 1632-1776; (3) Carolina, 1663-69, 1693-1729; (4) New Jersey, 1664-85; (5) Pennsylvania, 1681-1701; (6) Georgia, 1732-52.

See, also, "Federal and state constitutions."

[NOTE.—In 1701, Pennsylvania received a charter from its proprietor, and in the same year, Delaware, from the same proprietor. In 1729, Carolina was separated into the colonial provinces of North and South Carolina.]

- c. The aim of the crown was to organize them as "royal provinces."

See Thompson's "United States as a nation." p. 39-43.

This was consummated in various colonies, 1624-1752. (1) Virginia, 1624-75, 1684-1776; (2) New York, 1674-1776; (3) New Hampshire, 1679-90, 1692-98, 1741-76; (4) New Jersey, 1702-76; (5) Georgia, 1752-76; also, N. and S. Carolina, 1729-76.

[NOTE.—From 1684 to 1691, Massachusetts Bay was organized as a province, directly under the King, but received a provincial charter in 1691. From 1685 to 1689 the "province of New England" (comprising New England, New York, and New Jersey) was in existence.]

These changes are clearly traced by Story, in his "Commentaries on the constitution." Bk. 1. ch. 1.

See, also, the language of the "Declaration of independence."

Also, particularly, Bigelow's "Franklin." v. 2. p. 50-52.

This struggle in the Massachusetts Bay colony is traced, with much detail and great clearness, by Charles Deane, in ch. 10 of the "Memorial history of Boston." v. 1.

### C. Direct effects of the series of wars, 1689-1763.

For a statement of the principles underlying the European wars, see Woolsey's "Introduction to international law." p. 439-49.

Bancroft, "United States" (v. 3, p. 175-94), shows how these affected American as well as European history.

See, also, Green's "History of the English people." v. 4. (Chapters on American war.)

The names by which the wars were known are given below, the first being the European and the second the American:

1. "The grand alliance." ("King William's war.") 1689-97.

2. "The Spanish succession." ("Queen Anne's war.") 1702-13.

3. "The Austrian succession." ("King George's war.") 1744-48.

4. "The seven years' war." ("The old French war.") 1756-63.

The form which they took in this country was that of a struggle between France and England for colonial possessions. This is comprehensively traced by Parkman in his series, "France and England in America."

[NOTE.—The gradual encroachment of English colonial territory on that of France is well shown in three maps of Gage's "Modern historical atlas," 1710, 1774, 1783.]

- a. The dangers and atrocities suffered by the colonists through the use made by the French of the Indians as allies, may be traced in Grahame's "United States." v. 2. See, also, Drake's "Book of the Indians." Bk. 3. p. 102-44.

Also, Parkman's "Conspiracy of Pontiac," ch. 2-5.

The feeling of the colonists was well expressed by Franklin, in 1766. (Bigelow's "Franklin." v. 1. p. 494.)

- b. The distance of the colonies from the mother country created a feeling of isolation. Cf. T. Paine's claim, in "Common Sense," that "England is too distant from America to govern it at all."

This led to schemes of union like the series of colonial congresses, 1690-1774. See Greene's "Historical view of the American revolution." p. 68-72.

Also, Frothingham's "Rise of the republic of the United States."

On the Albany congress of 1754, see the "Documentary history of New York." v. 2. p. 317.

Also, Stephen Hopkins's "True representation of the plan formed at Albany."

This tendency was helped by the rising spirit of nationality. See Frothingham's "Rise of the republic of the United States."

- c. The independence of protection from England, after the conclusion of peace with France in 1763, hastened actual independence in government. See Green's "Short history of the English people." (Eng. ed. p. 740.)

See, also, the evidence that this fact was appreciated by France, in the remark of the Duc de Choiseul, quoted by Bancroft. v. 4. p. 460.

The Canadian provinces, being newly conquered territory, did not share this feeling with the "united" colonies. See Withrow's "History of Canada." p. 105-9.

- d. The military discipline of nearly a century of warfare had accustomed the colonists to bearing arms. See Dana's oration at Lexington, Apr. 19, 1875. (In "Centennial orations, 1874-75." p. 40-41.)

Also, Irving's "Life of Washington." v. 1. Also, Greene's "Historical view." p. 211-16.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

EDITED BY MELVIL DUL.

**KEEPING A RECORD OF TITLES.**—In the Providence Library, readers have just been encouraged to a more systematic and intelligent use of the books, by the setting apart of a portion of the "card" or "memorandum" used, for putting down the names of the books; the entry and charging being, however, by the book-numbers, as heretofore.

**SUNDAY OPENING AT HARVARD.**—October 3d, 1880, is a red-letter day. Then commenced Sunday opening of the University Library from 1 to 5 P. M., and, on the shortest days, 1 to sunset. Only regular readers are admitted, and visitors are told to call on week days. Who comes next in granting Sabbath privileges?

[Compare this with the refusal of the Edinburgh meeting of the L. A. U. K. even to discuss Mr. Nicholson's motion in favor of Sunday opening.]

**POSTING BULLETINS.**—The variety of methods is quite extensive, including blackboards, slate panels, pasting and tacking on wood, and hanging on hooks. More convenient than any of these is that of fastening to the panel a spring clasp, whose lip shuts down on the sheet to be inserted. A very large number of thicknesses may thus be inserted, one above another, while at the same time any one of them may be freely consulted, or withdrawn without disturbing the others.

**USES FOR THE EMERSON BINDERS.**—During the last few months, a "finding-list" has been in press by the Providence Public Library. Instead of waiting for the completion of the work, before rendering it available, 15 Emerson binders were placed in the library where the public could have access to them, and into these each successive signature has been laced, as soon as it was completed. The same library uses the binders for preserving a file of its reference lists for consultation by readers, and also for the lists of reference-books, government publications, etc., which are placed in the reading-room for consultation.

**LEGAL RIGHTS.**—I had a legal decision from Judge Baxter, of our U. S. Circuit Court to-day, which may interest you. A lawyer sent a subpoena *duces tecum* for me, requiring the production of certain books in court. Not wishing to see a precedent established which might prove an annoyance in future, I obeyed the subpoena in person, but asked the judge whether I must produce the books in court. His decision was that a person in charge of a public library could not be so compelled—and the gentleman wishing the books was

obliged to obtain them in conformity to the rules of the library. CHESTER W. MERRILL,

Pub. Lib. of Cincinnati.

**ANONYMS WHEN KNOWN.**—Where should anonymous books be put in a catalog when the author is known (as in some of the "No Name" novels)—as anonymous, or under the author?

[In both places. No other plan can be satisfactory. Neither can be omitted. All who know the author will look under his name for all his works. The mass of people don't know, and have no means of knowing, the author of "No Name" books, and must look under title. As a rule, in doubtful cases, it is best and cheapest to enter books in both places, whatever the cause of doubt. If the librarian is not sure which heading to choose, how can he expect readers to know which to look for? In short-title catalogs, the duplicate entry is often as concise as a cross-reference, and is doubly efficient.]

**MASSEY BOOK-SUPPORT.**—The thumb-screw on the book-supports, where people have access to the shelves, is a great nuisance. They think they must loosen it in order to move it, and then they either leave it unfastened or set it so tight we cannot move it. I am going to replace them with round-headed screws. A. P. MASSEY.

[This note from the inventor may save money. We agree with him that it is better to use the cheaper support where the public has access to shelves. For private libraries the thumb-screw allows of adjustment, but in fact the shelves are apt to be of the same thickness, and for the rare cases otherwise it is only a moment's work to loosen the round-head screw and re-adjust it. This style costs 15, and that with thumb-screw 20 cts.; so we recommend the cheaper for nearly all uses. In fact, the iron Economy Book Support is used by libraries vastly more. It takes no room and fits every possible shelf, but some eminent librarians prefer the wood.—M. D.]

**PARTITIONS.**—Every one who uses drawers and keeps articles therein, knows how the act of opening and shutting the drawer "mixes things." Small ring-headed screws ("picture-eyes"), set along the lines where partitions are wanted, will be found to answer admirably. If the attainable screws are not long enough, hooks made of the same sizes of wire will usually be found and will do quite as well. Indeed, they can easily be bent with a pair of pliers so that they will become in effect ring-headed screws. If continuous partitions are indispensable, they can be fixed by means of these same screws, holes being bored through the partitions edgewise, or, which is perhaps easier,

small staples such as are used on blind-slats being driven in the sides of the partitions for the screws to pass through. Partitions made in either of the ways indicated are, of course, readily movable or removable, as no screw-driver is needed unless the drawer-bottom is of hard wood. C. W.

SHAKESPEARE REFERENCES.—Your form of reference, using only Arabic numerals, is perhaps preferable to mine for *single* references; but it does not seem to me so well suited to a *succession* of references, such as I often have occasion to use in my edition of Shakespeare. For example: in a page of proof received to-day, I have the following references to other parts of *Richard III.*: "As in iv. 2. 121, iv. 3. 51, iv. 4. 313, v. 1. 18, and v. 3. 182." Here the Roman numerals for the acts help to make the separate reference distinct to the eye. W. J. ROLFE.

[Our doctrine, after considering all the claims thoroly, is that the sooner Roman numerals are entirely abolished the better. Arabic numerals first, and then, if needed, the letters of the alphabet, are best for reference. There are cases where thistles and thorns serve a purpose, but the gardener weeds them out mercilessly. Roman numerals are giving way rapidly. Chapters, volumes on backs of books, and similar ground long consecrated to the ridiculous xxxviii, etc., are more and more taking simple 38—quicker to write, quicker to read, takes a quarter the room, and is 100-fold less liable to mistake. The advantage named above would be gained in printing by using larger, black-face type, and in writing by making figures double size. I have yet seen no case where I could not get along without the Roman.—M. D.]

HOME LITHOGRAPHING.—The country is flooded with hektographs, copygraphs, marvel copyists, etc., and the electric pen and papyrograph have had large sales. This shows a want that I have often felt. I own a papyrograph which cost me \$85, and a hektograph at \$6 or \$7, and have experimented with the others. None of them is *the thing*. Now, I think *the thing* will be just the common lithograph with one modification. To prepare the stone *now* requires a special education to be able to do work backwards or reversed. I have been on the point of ordering a lithograph stone a dozen times, and teaching myself to write and print backwards, but—can't bother. You know the principle of the lithograph? simply the repulsion between water and oil. The stone repels oily ink, printer's ink, but the chalky lines drawn on the stone take the ink and transfer it to paper; the one trouble is to write backwards with the chalk on the stone.

Now, the hektograph ink transfers—leaves the paper and attaches itself to the pad. Why cannot an ink be devised to write on paper and similarly be transferred to the lithograph stone? Every man then can be his own lithographer.

Unless you know both processes, lithograph and hektograph, the above will not be very intelligible. If you do, you will see the connection at once. REV. J. L. TUCKER.

*Jackson, Miss.*

[Our correspondent is partly right about lithographing and partly not. Let him go to a lithographer to get fifty copies lithographed of a letter. The lithographer immediately gives him a prepared paper, and lithographic ink, and says, "Please to write the letter you wish." When it is written, Mr. Lithographer simply lays it face down on the stone, and thus prints the reverse copy on the stone; and then he proceeds to ink the stone and print, until the fifty copies are furnished. Mr. Tucker's error is his supposition that the writing has to be done originally on the stone. The "transfer process," as it is called, avoids all that.

The obstacles in the way of the plan are not so great as would at first appear. The special ink costs almost nothing. A good yellow stone, good enuf for common duplicating, can be had for about 12 or 15 cents per kilogram. One weighing about 40 kilograms (88 pounds) would take a large foolscap sheet, as large as any of the patent duplicators use. The stone, costing \$5 or \$6, would last an indefinite time. After printing as many copies as wanted, the stone is washed over or scoured over with fine sand, which wears it down a trifle. The same stone can be used till worn down thin, and would probably take 1,000 or more scourings before breaking from thinness. An ordinary pen is all that is necessary. Thus for an outlay of \$6 we have an outfit from which rough duplicate copies can be had by pressing the paper on the stone; but I think it doubtful if it could be called a success unless a press were used. A small lithographic press can be had for \$75, and at second-hand for much less. With this, copies can be made, more permanent, handsomer, and every way more desirable than any of the popular duplicating processes. A steam press would take 10,000 impressions if wanted. A hand press say 2,000. In libraries, \$100 would buy an outfit that would be of great use in getting out bulletins of new books and the thousand and one things of which a good many copies are wanted, but which cost too much if sent to the printer. Who will try the experiment and report?—M. D.]



## GENERAL NOTES.

## UNITED STATES.

**BOSTON PUBLIC.**—The cards of the popular or lower hall books have been taken from the main catalogue and put in new cases down-stairs, in charge of a new attendant, who gives his whole time, with admirably satisfactory results, to assisting readers in the choice of better books.

**CINCINNATI.**—No books are given out from the Cincinnati public library on Sunday, but the reading-rooms are open, both for periodicals and newspapers, and the attendance, especially now that the cold days of winter have come, is very large. On some Sundays the rooms are full, and as quiet as they are full. Who can doubt that such a plan has good results?—says the *Christian Union*.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

**BATH PUBLIC LIBRARY.**—"Some years since, Mr. Makillop, a wealthy resident of Bath," says the *Publishers' circular*, "purchased and presented to the city an extensive building, on the provisional understanding that it should become a rate-aided library. Many persons gave books to it and aided the institution financially. Three years ago, the rate-payers were asked to accept the gift and allow a rate to maintain the institution. The burgesses refused. The library was then carried on by subscription, and another appeal has now been made to the burgesses, to whom it was explained that the rate could not, under the new law, exceed a penny in the pound without their opinion being taken. The decision, which was made known recently, was decidedly against a rate-aided library, the majority of opponents being nearly 2,000. The contest has caused much excitement in the borough, and many meetings have been held. The value of Mr. Makillop's gift was £3,000. It is believed the institution will now be closed."

**EDINBURGH.**—The meeting of the Library Association at Edinburgh appears to have given a fresh impetus to the Free Library movement in that city. At the recent municipal elections the question was brought up at the ward meetings, and the Edinburgh Trades' Council and other bodies are about to present a requisition to the Lord Provost to convene a public meeting on the subject.—*Monthly notes*.

## FRANCE.

**PARIS LIBRARIES.**—There are now 17 municipal libraries in Paris, containing 38,000 v. The circulation was 54,000 v. in the first six months of 1880. They are already beginning to receive

donations and legacies of books and money. Many of them lend not only books but music.

TO REMEDY the want of books, which often embarrasses the professors in the various colleges of the University of France, the Minister of Public Instruction has ordered the formation of circulating libraries in the different academies, the books to be chosen by the faculties, kept in the office of the rector, and lent to the professors. Good editions of the classics, the best manuals in science, the most recent and most authoritative critical works, are to be acquired first; but the Minister wishes to leave each faculty as free as possible in regard to details.

## ITALY.

**VATICAN LIBRARY.**—"The promised improvements in the arrangements at the Vatican Library," says the *Publishers' circular*, "are now being actively carried out by the newly appointed librarian, Monsignor Ciccolini. The following arrangements have already been made by him: In the outer reading-room are placed a collection of dictionaries and books of reference, catalogues of foreign libraries, and collections that will be of much service to students. It is to be hoped that English as well as foreign libraries will send copies of their catalogues and indices of mss. to complete the list, which is at present not as full as it could be made, for the benefit of the numerous readers of their respective countries who make constant use of the Vatican Museum. New tables and convenient seats have been substituted for the old and awkwardly planned desks, at which it was difficult to stand, and impossible to sit until one had deprived one's neighbors of their share of the leather cushions. Arrangements have also been made, which will shortly be carried out, by which additional light will be brought into the room by means of a window to be opened above the door of entrance, which will be lighted by a lantern over the space between the outer and inner rooms. The catalogues of mss. and printed books are in progress (it may not be generally supposed that there are about 200,000 printed volumes in the rooms known as the Appartamento Borgia), and in compiling them it is not improbable that several buried treasures will be brought to light. The archives, also, which have hitherto been accessible only to a very few privileged persons, will be now opened to students in general. The entrance to the rooms in the archives will be in future from a door opening into the street, instead of going through the reading-room of the library and a part of the galleries."

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